CONTACT TRACING APPS

RISKS AND BENEFITS RORY DUNLOP QC



OVERVIEW

- How do contact tracing apps work?
- How will the NHSX model work?
- What are the risks of the NHSX model?
- What are benefits of the NHSX model?



How do contact tracing apps work?

What Apple and Google have proposed



When A and B meet, their phones exchange a key code



When A becomes infected, he updates his status in the app and gives his consent to share his key with the database



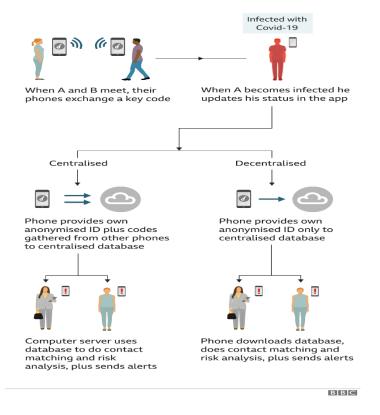
B's phone regularly downloads the database to check for matching codes. It alerts her that somebody she has been near has tested positive

Source: Apple/Google

ВВС



How will the NHSX model work?





Risks of the Centralised Approach

- Apple's restrictions on use of Bluetooth
- Hacking?
- Mission creep??
- Legal risks???



Benefits of Centralised Approach

- More information as to e.g. what contacts are more risky and when transmission is most likely to occur
- (If the app changes to allow more information as to location) the potential to learn about hotspots and danger areas



My Opinion



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