From:	s22
To:	s22 EDWARDS, Caroline
Cc:	HealthCommunications; Corona Comms; Grieve, Jodie; KEYS, Daniel
Subject:	RE: For clearance: app media release V2 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date:	Friday, 24 April 2020 3:44:31 PM
Attachments:	Joint COVID-19 app media release and TPs JG.docx
	image001.png
	image002.png

Hi s22

Please find attached Caroline's edits.

Could you please advise if there are further changes from the department – would probably prefer to use the attached words.

Can you also confirm with Daniel the sentence about the app needing to remain open, I think we should remove regardless.

Please keep us posted on any changes/developments.

Thanks,

s22

Chief of Staff | Office of the Secretary
Australian Government Department of Health
s22

The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

From: s22

Sent: Friday, 24 April 2020 3:06 PM

To: EDWARDS, Caroline ; s22

Cc: HealthCommunications ; Corona Comms ; Grieve, Jodie

Subject: For clearance: app media release V2 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Caroline,

Hi there. Please find attached a draft media release for the launch of the coronavirus app.

s22   in the MO would like us to send it up asap.

Can you please clear this, noting it is still being cleared through our policy areas and is subject to change?

I can put that caveat on the release when it goes up to James.

Kind regards,

s22

Acting Director – Health Communication
Communication and Change Branch | People, Communication and Parliamentary Division
Australian Government Department of Health
s22
PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601
Level 3 Sirius Building North, Furze St. Woden ACT
The Department of Health acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE

Date

JOINT STATEMENT BY
THE PRIME MINISTER, SCOTT MORRISON
THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, GREG HUNT
THE MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES, STUART ROBERT

COVID-19: NEW APP TO SLOW THE SPREAD

The Australian Government today launches the new coronavirus contact app, COVIDSafe. The app is an extra tool helping us contain the spread of coronavirus, allowing us to have increased confidence as we move to ease sooner some of the restrictions that have kept us safe.

This important public health initiative uses technology to automate and improve what state and territory health authorities already do manually. COVIDSafe will speed up the process of finding people who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with coronavirus, quickly stopping further spread of the virus.

"I urge Australians to download COVIDSafe so health authorities can contact you quickly to let you know if you've been exposed to COVID-19," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. "This simple step will protect your family and friends. It will save lives.

"Australians' response to this pandemic has been magnificent. This app is another chance way for us to work together as a community to slow the spread of the virus. Clearly the more people who use it, the faster our 'disease detectives' can contact people who may have been exposed."

As a person goes about their daily business, the COVIDSafe app looks for other users who also have the app installed. It is automatically triggeredA 'digital handshake' occurs between phones when a person comes into close contact with other app users – within 1.5 metres of each other for 15 minutes.

The app securely logs this 'digital handshake', exchanging the users' encrypted codes and taking note of the time and duration of contact. All information collected by the app is encrypted and stored in the app on the user's phone. No one, nNot even the user can access it. [NG1]

The app only records close contacts. It does not record an individual's location or movements.

No information is disclosed or able to be accessed unless and until a person is diagnosed with COVID 19. Then only the relevant public health officials will have access to information and only to the phone numbers of close contacts.

Heath Minister Greg Hunt said that if someone tests positive for coronavirus, state and territory health officers authorities arecan able to use the inforamation data from

~~their phone~~ to quickly contact people who may have been exposed. "It helps them find you so you can quarantine yourself or get treated much faster, protecting your family and friends from possible infection, and slowing the spread of the virus," he said.

"COVIDSafe is set to be a major tool in streamlining the process of identifying contacts after a person tests positive for coronavirus. Without this technology, we have to rely on people being able to remember who they have been around, and being able to provide contact details for those people."

Government Services Minister Stuart Robert said the app will be completely voluntary to download and use. "Only state and territory health officials will use the <u>information</u>~~data in the app~~,~~.~~" he said.

"The Commonwealth Government will have no access to the <u>information</u>~~data~~"

COVIDSafe only keeps contact information in the user's phone for 21 days. This covers the maximum incubation period for the virus and time it takes for someone to be tested for COVID-19. If someone is diagnosed with the virus, their app will continue to run for a further 14 days to ensure any additional close contacts during this time ~~are~~ <u>can be</u> identified.

Prime Minister Morrison said the app is "solely about health – and, specifically, COVID-19. "It only records close contacts and does not record an individual's location or movements. ~~If the user has no close contacts, there is no record of where the user has been.~~

~~"The app cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to enforce any quarantine restrictions.~~

"Its <u>sole</u> purpose is ~~solely~~ to enable our 'disease detectives' to connect with people who may be at risk of coronavirus more quickly, so they take action, such as quarantine or seeking medical advice.

"Once the coronavirus pandemic is over, and Australia no longer needs the app, the app and the information on it will be deleted permanently. No virus, no app."

TALKING POINTS

- Australians have rapidly made the necessary changes to help slow the spread of coronavirus. Our efforts are working and providing precious time to prepare our community and health system for any outbreaks.

- The next few weeks are a crucial time in Australia's battle against coronavirus (COVID-19), as we prepare to ease some of the restrictions while keeping Australians safe.

- Our testing regime, already one of the best in the world, is being extended so we can identify any outbreaks early.

- Our health authorities have shown how quickly they can move to contain an outbreak.

- The third fundamental element in helping to keep Australians safe is being able to quickly contact people who may have unknowingly been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.

- Up to now, our health authorities have been chasing up these close contacts manually, relying on people's memories and the tireless investigative efforts of our 'disease detectives'. They've proven how well this manual process works. But it's a big ask of someone's memory, and it can take a long time – days, even weeks.

- The slower the process, the more chance of someone spreading the virus unknowingly, the more chance that people's health and lives are put at risk, and the longer the restrictions on our community will need to be in place.

- The new COVIDSafe app uses technology to speed up the process of finding people who have been in contact with someone with COVID-19.

- When you download the app, you just need to provide your name, mobile number, age and postcode. The system then creates a unique code just for you.

- The app operates in the background on your phone. It automatically recognises if you're less than 1.5 metres away from another app user for 15 minutes or more. It then exchanges your encrypted codes and records the time and duration of the contact. [NG2]

- The contact data is encrypted and stored in the app on your phone. No-one can access it, not even you, unless you are diagnosed with COVID-19.

- When someone is diagnosed, they ~~can choose to give~~provide state and territory health authorities access to the contact data in the app on their phone as part of the usual process.

- Health authorities will use it to speed up their current manual process, enabling them to let you know you may have been exposed to virus much more quickly, precisely and effectively.

- They'll let you know what to look out for, how and when to get tested, and how to protect yourself and your family.

- The app is solely about health – and, specifically, COVID-19.

- The app only records close contacts. It does not record an individual's location or movements.

- The app cannot be used to enforce quarantine restrictions or for any other law enforcement purposes. It cannot be used for any purpose other than health protection.

- The COVIDSafe app is a tool – a public health tool to help health officials contact people who may have been put at risk by being in close contact with someone who has contracted coronavirus.

- Every Australian will be safer when health officials are able to contact people more quickly if they have been exposed to coronavirus. The faster they can get to people, the lower the risk of those people infecting others.

- Information collected by the app stays in your phone unless you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and you ~~give permission~~send it to health authorities ~~to upload the contact information to~~through a highly restricted, secure data store. The Commonwealth Government will have no access to this data.

- Users must keep the app open for it to work on their phone.[EC3]

- They can delete the app from their phone at any time.

- At the end of the pandemic, the user will be prompted to delete the app from their phone. This will delete all data from your phone. The information in the secure data store will be destroyed at the end of the pandemic.