



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 4

COVID-19 and the Digital Economy

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Canada



**Digital Economy Steering Group Special
Virtual Meeting on COVID-19
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CANADA

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ISSUE	POLICY INTERVENTIONS, INITIATIVES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND SOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE	ACTUAL/EXPECTED OUTCOME
Use of digital technologies and solutions including for tracing purpose	<p>On June 18th, 2020 the Government announced the upcoming launch of a new mobile app across Canada to provide notifications of exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Canadian Digital Service is leading the development of the app, in collaboration with the Ontario Digital Service and building upon technology developed by volunteers of the Canadian cloud-based e-commerce platform operator, Shopify Inc. The app will undergo a security review by BlackBerry.</p> <p>The app incorporates Bluetooth technology provided by Apple and Google to anonymously record instances where users have come into close contact. To protect confidentiality and privacy, the app will not disclose the identity of users. This information will never be shared with any other entity, will not be stored by the app, and will never leave the user's phone. No personal information is collected by the app, and it does not track the user's location to ensure the privacy of all Canadians.</p>	<p>The app will help Canadians and public health officials identify and isolate the spread of the virus more quickly, which is an important step toward containing the virus and safely restarting the economy.</p> <p>Use of the app will be voluntary. If someone tests positive for COVID-19, a health care provider will give them a unique temporary code, so they can upload their status anonymously to a domestic network.</p> <p>Other users who have downloaded the app and come in contact with that person will be notified, through the app, that they may have been exposed to the virus.</p> <p>The app will also provide users with information on steps they can take to keep themselves and others safe.</p>