HOW WA NOTIFY WORKS

WA Notify (also known as Washington Exposure Notifications) is an important tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Just like wearing a mask, distancing and getting vaccinated, WA Notify is a great way to protect our community.

WA Notify works through smartphones, without sharing any personal information, to alert users if they may have been exposed to COVID-19. It is completely private, and doesn’t know or track who you are or where you go.

Studies show that the more people who use exposure notification technology, the greater the benefit. Data models in Washington state show that even a small number of people using WA Notify would reduce infections and deaths.

ADD WA NOTIFY TO YOUR PHONE

On an iPhone:
1. Go to Settings
2. Scroll down to Exposure Notifications
3. Click “Turn On Exposure Notifications”
4. Select United States
5. Select Washington

On an Android phone:
1. Go to the Google Play Store
2. Search WA Exposure Notifications to easily find the app
3. Download the Washington Exposure Notifications app

ONCE YOU ADD WA NOTIFY TO YOUR PHONE

Here’s how it works to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

1. When two people using WA Notify on their smartphones are near each other, their phones exchange random codes using Bluetooth. The codes are completely anonymous, with no location tracking or exchange of personal information.

2. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 through a lab-confirmed test, public health will send them a verification link text message and/or a pop-up notification. Alternatively, a user can request a verification code for a positive at-home test.

3. The person who tests positive clicks the link or taps the notification and follows all of the steps to confirm their result in the app.

4. WA Notify users receive a notification that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 if they were near and potentially exposed by an anonymous WA Notify user who recently tested positive for COVID-19.

5. Notifications have a link to information about what to do next to protect yourself and others. They do not contain any information about who tested positive or where the exposure may have happened.