

# COVIDSafe App Myths Busted



There are a lot of myths spreading on the internet and social media about the COVIDSafe app. AH&MRC has created this resource to bust some common myths about the app and provide reliable information on how it works to slow the spread of COVID-19.

**Myth** I will be forced to download the COVIDSafe app.



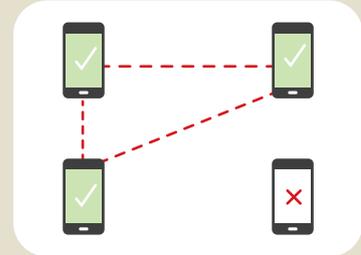
**Fact** No one will be forced to download the app. Downloading the app is encouraged to help track the spread of COVID-19, however the decision to download the COVIDSafe app is completely up to you.

**Myth** The Government will store my data and use it for other purposes.



**Fact** Health officials can only access app information if someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19 agrees to the information in their phone being uploaded. Health officials can then only use app information to notify people who need to quarantine and get tested.

**Myth** The COVIDSafe app doesn't work properly.



**Fact** The COVIDSafe app works by tracking who users have been in contact with using bluetooth and can only recognise other devices with the app installed. For it to be effective, the app relies on lots of people downloading it, providing the correct information and self-reporting.

**Myth** The COVIDSafe app is just the Government trying to spy on people.



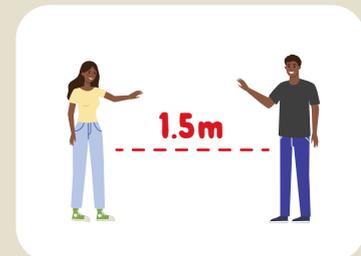
**Fact** The COVIDSafe app has been created to limit the spread of COVID-19, not to spy on people. At the end of COVID-19, users of the app will be prompted to delete it from their phone. Deleting the app will delete all the app information stored on the user's phone.

**Myth** The COVIDSafe app will use my location data to track my whereabouts.



**Fact** When the COVIDSafe app recognizes another user of the app, it takes note of the date, time, distance away and duration of contact, but it does not collect the users location. The contact information stored in people's mobiles is deleted on a rolling cycle after 21 days, taking into account the COVID-19 incubation period of 14 days and the time it takes to get tested.

**Myth** I don't need the COVIDSafe app if I am following the social distancing measures.



**Fact** Not everyone is following the rules and if you come in to contact with someone that isn't keeping a safe distance, covering coughs and sneezes and washing their hands regularly, it puts you at risk. Even people with no symptoms can spread COVID-19. For more information on the COVIDSafeapp visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)

**Right now, it's more important than ever to get tested for COVID-19.** If you are showing any COVID-19 symptoms including fever, dry cough, shortness of breath and/or sore throat make sure you visit your local COVID-19 testing clinic to get tested.

Let's keep our community safe, strong and healthy.

Please visit [health.nsw.gov.au](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au) for the latest information on COVID-19.

COVID-19  
SLOW THE  
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