

Tele-meeting notes – Go.Data for Covid-19 in the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom

Date: 5 March 2020; from 15:00 to 16:00

Participants: ECDC, WHO-HQ, France, Ireland, Hungary, Sweden

ECDC opened the tele-meeting on the use of Go.Data during the current COVID-19 event in the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom. Go.Data is a tool developed by WHO-GOARN for outbreak investigation, contact tracing and follow-up, and visualisation of transmission chains. The meeting was organised to make sure all EU/EEA countries know Go.Data, and to express the ECDC support towards the use of Go.Data in regards to contact tracing for COVID-19.

In the days before the meeting, ECDC had received several request of information about Go.Data from different EU Member States, both at the national and the regional/local level.

After the opening, Sara Hollis, WHO-HQ, gave a brief presentation on the main features and potentialities of Go.Data. Sara was deployed for about 2 months in Beni, DRC, for the rollout of Go.Data and, in addition, she created specific R scripts, which communicate with Go.Data database.

The floor was then given to Alexandra Mailles, Sante publique France (SPF), to present the French experience in using Go.Data during the current COVID-19 event. Alexandra clarified that the tool has been useful in France so far, providing time-efficient solutions during intense operations. Go.Data is installed in a central SPF server, accessible from the national and regional/local level. It was initially used to list cases, support contact tracing and draw transmission chains. When the number of new cases increased rapidly, the use for contact tracing was dropped, as it was too time consuming. Alexandra specifically mentioned that few days are necessary to have a team able to make it functioning efficiently. Considering the need to translate data dictionary and some guiding documents, that could take more than a week. It's therefore important to be prepared (installation, preparation and training) before large number of cases are reported.

Finally, Andrea Iber, head of the ECDC Legal department, provided an overview of the legal assessment done for Go.Data in respect to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Andrea noted that each national Data Protection Officer should run their own national assessment, the outcome of which is dependent of the kind of installation, role definition and data storing. However, provided that Go.Data is installed in a national secure server and that the data are kept for a previously set amount of time, the tool should be compliant of the GDPR. The slides presented by Andrea are distributed in the same email circulating the meeting notes.

When closing the meeting, ECDC informed that colleagues in the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom will receive a short survey to give feedback on their interest in using Go.Data.