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Dear colleagues.

Further to our discussions yesterday I enclose a brief summary:

- The main aims of the project were described: to work with a small group of countries to explore available contact tracing data and assess how best to collate primary data to provide a better understanding of the epidemiological situation and empirical evidence to help improve the contact tracing process. Some countries have already undertaken analyses of contact tracing data and it was noted that this project hopes to build on this work and add strength to the findings through collating the available evidence at the European level. It was noted that a further outcome of the project would be to share the experiences around the analysis of contact tracing data with other countries in the region and globally through the WHO contact tracing network.
- from Albania noted that she was working with two other colleagues on contact tracing and will forward their names to the group. The team have used the FFX protocol and have analysed contact tracing data to provide attack rates for different settings including households, prisons, workplaces and have data around the quarantine period and the testing of contacts. The data are housed in a web-based system and the team would be willing to share some data and analyses.
- from Belgium noted that they were not using the FFX protocol but had undertaken some preliminary analyses to develop transmission rates in contacts. It was noted that the country do not keep track of the symptom onset in the contacts so it would not be possible to estimate the serial interval. In Belgium the provinces are responsible for contact tracing but report data back to a central repository. It was noted that there is no legal basis in the country for providing information on contacts and participation rates have been as low as 30%. However it was noted that since August the number of contacts reported has increased, but is not clear if this increase is because of greater collaboration or if the number of contacts has increased. The quarantine period has been reduced to 5 days the contact are tested on this day and released if the test is negative. The team have done some analysis of different settings and this could be shared.
- from Bosnia-Herzegovina noted that the country has been using the FFX protocol from WHO. It was noted that there is a problem with testing of asymptomatic contacts as all contacts should go in quarantine and are only tested if they develop symptoms. A total of 223 households were recruited during August and it was noted that the team may be able to provide some analyses in relation to the first question in the protocol for households.
- Future outputs from the project were discussed and it was suggested that collation of primary data around contact tracing
  would be useful for ongoing modelling work and could provide empirical evidence to help refine the parameters in the
  guidance around contact tracing. There was support from the group to also work towards a joint publication and for the
  results of the project to be shared widely through existing ECDC and WHO networks.
- In terms of **next steps** it was agreed that the next meeting would take place in 1 2 week's time and the meeting would discuss the future possibilities for collating data at the regional level. Ahead of the next meeting it was agreed that

participating countries would provide further details around local data available specific to the questions outlined in the protocol and share any relevant analyses they had undertaken and were able to share. Any further feedback on the protocol was also welcomed.

I would like to thank you all for your time and support of this work. I will be in contact in the coming days with details of our next meeting.

Best wishes,





Subject: Meeting to discuss next steps for analysis of contact tracing data across Europe

@who.int>;

Dear colleagues,

We would like to invite you to a call to discuss the next steps regarding the project to analyse contact tracing data. We have scheduled a Webex call for next Tuesday at 3pm CET (please see details below).

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@ecdc.europa.eu>

Our aim with this project is to work with a small group of countries, in collaboration with our colleagues at WHO Europe, to explore contact tracing data and obtain some empirical evidence from this data to help answer four key questions outlined in the protocol that we revised and simplified based on your feedback (see enclosed):

- 1. Can the recommended quarantine period be shortened without doing a test to release people from quarantine?
- 2. What settings, situations, or specific groups have a particularly high risk of transmission?
- 3. When is transmission risk highest relative to symptom onset?
- 4. What is the length of duration of exposure that provides the highest risk of transmission?

There is considerable interest in the results of this analysis and it is hoped that the outcomes of this work will provide a deeper understanding of epidemiological situation of COVID-19 and yield some important evidence to inform policy and practice.

The draft agenda for the meeting next week is

- Introductions
- aims/objectives of project
- protocol and data
- outcomes (technical report/publication)
- timelines

We look forward to working with you and thank you in advance for your collaboration on this project.

With best wishes,

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(ECDC Contact Tracing Team)

