

Supplementary material 2. Definition of contact tracing and related terms used in the systematic review on the role of digital tools and emerging devices in Covid-19 contact tracing during the first 18 months of the pandemic

Contact tracing	the process of rapid identification, assessment and management of individuals who have recently been in contact with someone diagnosed with an infectious disease, in order to prevent additional transmission ¹
Traditional (forward or one-step) contact tracing	aims to identify individuals that were infected by recent contact with someone diagnosed with an infectious disease (tracing to whom disease spreads) ¹
Manual contact tracing	involves public health staff that perform a detailed epidemiological investigation to identify the contacts of an infected individual, interview them (in person or by telephone) to get additional context about the exposure, and monitor their symptoms ²
Digital contact tracing	contact tracing supported by digital proximity tracing or mobile applications (apps) that can detect the duration and distance of contact between users of the app. In case of a positive test, the app notifies users who have been in close proximity to the infected individual ¹ . Other functions of the apps are Covid-19 symptoms monitoring, general health functionalities, and booking for Covid-19 testing ³
Recursive (two-step or secondary) contact tracing	contact tracing of individuals situated two hops away from a confirmed case, along the digitally sensed proximity network (i.e., tracing not only direct contacts but also contacts of contacts and so on) ^{4,5}
Bidirectional contact tracing	uses backward contact tracing to identify the source of infection (the parent case or infector) who infected a known case, then continues tracing to iteratively discover other cases related to the infector ⁶

References

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