

These COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots are designed to capture the latest information and analysis in a fast-moving environment. Topics will be repeated from time to time as analysis develops. If you have an item to include, please email us at research@iom.int.



New research & analysis on privacy, mobility systems & COVID

[Privacy-Protective Mobile Big Data Analytics and COVID-19 Response: Challenges and Opportunities for Telecommunication Companies](#) by Sai Sri Sathya, Gunjan Sinha, Santanu Bhattacharya and Ramesh Raskar

[Can we fight COVID-19 without resorting to mass surveillance?](#) By Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye and Florimond Houssiau

[Surveillance Won't Stop the Coronavirus](#) by Petra Molner and Diego Naranjo

[Covid Notions: Towards Formal Definitions -- and Documented Understanding -- of Privacy Goals and Claimed Protection in Proximity-Tracing Services](#) by Christiane Kuhn, Martin Beck and Thorsten Strufe

[COVID-19 Mobile Positioning Data Contact Tracing and Patient Privacy Regulations: Exploratory Search of Global Response Strategies and the Use of Digital Tools in Nigeria](#) by Iniobong Ekong, Emeka Chukwu and Martha Chukwu

Extraordinary measures becoming ordinary?

Unprecedented levels of population surveillance and data exploitation are occurring around the world as part of responses to the pandemic. Similar to travel restrictions and lock-down provisions, many of these privacy-related measures are based on extraordinary powers, only to be used temporarily in emergencies. Exemptions in data protection laws to share data are also being utilised. UK-based *Privacy International* is tracking the global response to COVID-19 by monitoring changes in privacy-related measures. Easing of travel restrictions and lock-down provisions are relatively easy to monitor, but this is not the case for some other measures. Access its COVID-19 webpage [here](#).

Protecting privacy and data while using apps and biometrics

As part of its COVID-19 policy brief series, the OECD has published a [brief](#) on the development and use of digital tools for population surveillance, arguing that:

“*Digital technologies provide powerful tools for governments in their fight to control the COVID-19 pandemic, but their privacy and data protection implications must be recognised. Contact-tracing apps should be implemented with full transparency, in consultation with major stakeholders, robust privacy-by-design protections...*”



Joint Civil Society Statement on Digital Surveillance

Surveillance technology has been repurposed for contact tracing and monitoring mobility during the pandemic. In a [joint statement](#), over 100 organizations urged governments to:

“ show leadership in tackling the pandemic in a way that ensures that the use of digital technologies to track and monitor individuals and populations is carried out strictly in line with human rights.

COVID-19 and Data Protection

The Council of Europe has established a dedicated [webpage](#) on COVID-19 and data protection. The page includes declarations, fact-sheets, analytical articles and links to additional resources.



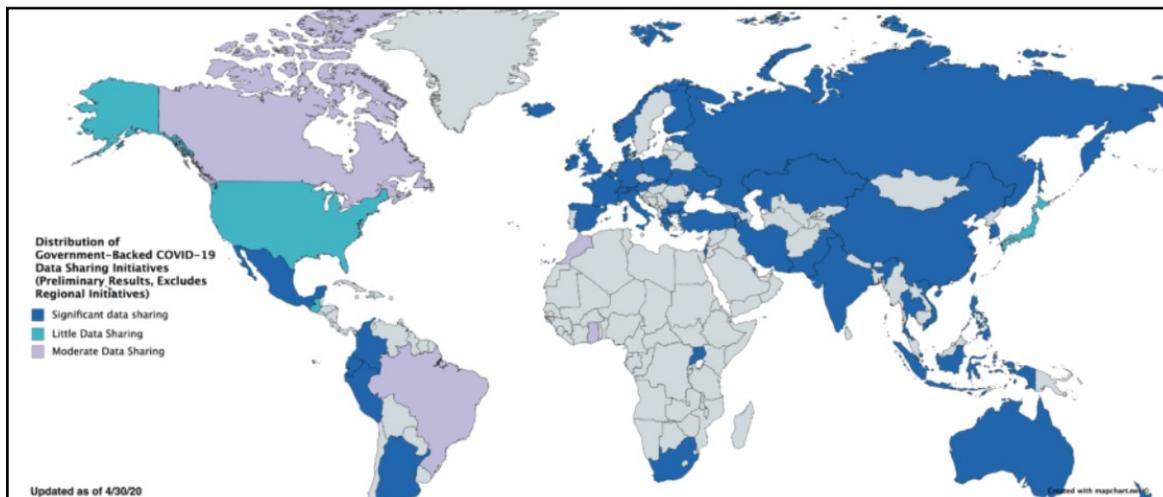
www.coe.int/dataprotection

Source: Council of Europe



COVID-19 Data Protection and Privacy Resources

The UN Global Pulse page contains a select list of data protection and privacy resources related to the COVID-19 epidemic. The page is being updated regularly as the landscape around data protection and privacy and COVID-19 evolves. The below infographic on the [Global Pulse page](#) represents distribution of government-backed COVID-19 data sharing initiatives.



Source: UN Global Pulse see <https://www.unglobalpulse.org/policy/covid-19-data-protection-and-privacy-resources/>

This COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot has been produced by [IOM Research](#) (research@iom.int).

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