

Dear HCC Community:

Thank you once again for your commitment to mitigating the spread of COVID-19, on and off campus. We always knew we would have some cases on campus, and this has been an academic year unlike any we have previously experienced, but it's clear that the vast majority of you are taking this seriously and looking out for your friends, faculty, and fellow classmates.

Today I'm sharing some exciting news about how we can help with the state's efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus. We have been asked to pilot a new exposure notification app called, COVID Alert CT. This is a pilot rollout of this important app with the hope of having the entire state download to maximize awareness about possible spread of COVID-19 in mid-November.

*The app is available on Apple and Android devices – and works like this:*

- For Android devices, you simply download the app.
- For Apple devices, you can go into your notification settings and turn on your, "Exposure Notifications." More detailed instructions for how you can get what you need to activate the app in this pilot are below.
- Once it's turned on, your phone exchanges anonymous tokens – *not any personal information* – with other devices (that have exposure notifications enabled) that you have close contact with via Bluetooth. *Close contact means being within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.*
- If someone who was near you in the past 14 days tests positive for COVID-19, and you both have exposure notifications enabled – you'll receive an alert. That alert only tells you that you were in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus – *it doesn't tell you who*. The alert will give you information about next steps.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, the contact tracer you talk with will provide you with a code you can use to report to the app that you have tested positive for COVID-19. This is how we ensure that someone can't submit a "joke" positive test without verification.

You can be sure – **your personal information will be protected**. It can't be accessed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, by Apple, or by Google.

This is an important tool to support contact tracing efforts – not to replace them. **It's still critical that you have a conversation with a contact tracer – the app doesn't have the ability to share your personal information – or the personal information of your contacts.**

This is a voluntary effort, but we hope that you will join your fellow students, Governor Lamont, and the State of Connecticut in this effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our residents informed.

You can find quick, easy instructions about how to enable exposure notifications on your phone below – and thank you. More information about the app – including answers to common questions can be found at [ct.gov/covidalertct](https://ct.gov/covidalertct).

Sincerely,

Dwayne Smith, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer