

Commission Members

Mary Crannell, Chair
Frank Jazzo, Vice Chair

October 2020

Jonathan Adelstein
John Burke
Mike Carleton
Phil Caughran
Joshua Farrar
Denise Haskins
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Martha Moore
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Jacqueline Snelling

Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

The Honorable Libby Garvey
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Madam Chair Garvey:

The Information Technology Advisory (Tech) Commission proposes adopting the core principles and associated guidance in [Digital Contact Tracing for Pandemic Response: Ethics and Governance Guidance](#) as County policy for the acquisition and implementation of digital contact tracing technologies in support of public health objectives. The core principles are:

- Transparency and public engagement are essential to an inclusive digital public health response.
- Digital public health responses must represent the least infringement of civil liberties necessary to accomplish public health goals.
- Use of digital public health technologies and data must be guided by the best available evidence.
- Responsible use of digital public health technology requires meaningful governance and accountability.
- Pandemic responses must be rooted in a commitment to equity.

This report was produced by a panel of experts led by the Johns Hopkins University Berman Institute of Bioethics and Center for Health Security. It recognizes that there are complicated issues to resolve for governments, institutions, and businesses and that introduction of digital contact tracing technologies must include public engagement and ongoing assessments to improve both performance and adoption. It seeks to guide decision-making and enhance understanding of core ethical, legal, policy, and governance considerations, and what is needed to move forward responsibly in support of public health surveillance. We have reviewed the report, believe it is comprehensive, and aligns with Arlington's values. It provides a valuable

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framework for the County staff to balance competing priorities and conflicting values as they make the difficult day-to-day decisions in service of the public.

This timely case of evaluating commercially available information technologies for use in our County's long standing public health contact tracing function offers an excellent example of just how multi-faceted, sensitive to local community context, and consequential such decisions are these days. In the months ahead the Tech Commission will endeavor to provide the County with a similar but more generic set of scholarship-based principles and guidelines with which to invite public engagement on municipal digital planning.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Crannell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Crannell
Chair
Information Technology Advisory Commission
Arlington, VA 22201

Core Principles: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/contact-tracing/principles>

Executive Summary: <https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/2628662>

Full Report: <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/75831>

Berman Institute of Bioethics: <https://bioethics.jhu.edu/>

Center for Health Security: <https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/>