

# MicrobeTrace Next

## Digital Contact Tracing Methodology

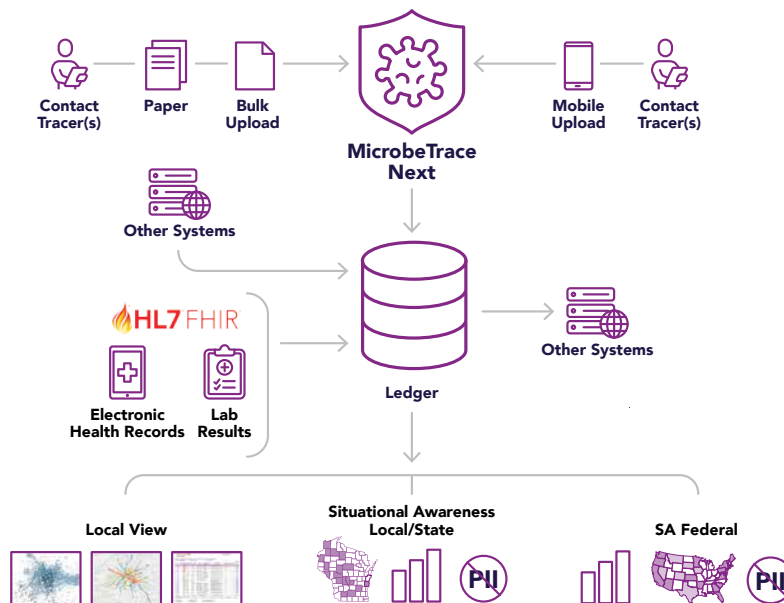
### BACKGROUND

Historically contact tracing has been paper-based, requiring public health officials to fill out hard copy forms, fax the forms to a central office, and possibly transcribe the data to a computer system. While this process has worked for relatively small contact tracing efforts, it is far from optimal for large outbreaks and impedes the ability to quickly gather, analyze, and report data in a timely manner. With the emergence of COVID-19, public health departments may potentially employ hundreds or thousands of field representatives to support contact tracing and need a more efficient way for those field representatives to collect and transmit the data. In combination with expanding testing campaigns, the increase in staff to conduct contact tracing will allow for a safe and sustainable reopening of the nation.

The current platform that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention provides for contact tracing is called MicrobeTrace. Through a new, enhanced digital system called MicrobeTrace Next, the existing platform has been reimagined to enable mobile data entry, blockchain-based data security, and enhanced data visualization through a self-service dashboard. MicrobeTrace Next helps field representatives conduct interviews more efficiently, helps public health officials send notifications more seamlessly, and helps public health stakeholders access and view data more intelligently.

### OUR APPROACH

The MicrobeTrace Next system allows states and local jurisdictions to use the MicrobeTrace Next platform as a tenant so their data is protected, but still includes the option for automated data sharing agreements to notify other jurisdictions of contacts in their purview requiring additional investigation. For example, the Texas state public health department can be notified automatically about individuals in Texas identified as potentially exposed as part of an interview by the Virginia state health department). For states and other jurisdictions engaging in field/telephone contact tracing efforts, the MicrobeTrace Next system provides case investigation, contact tracing and follow up in a user-friendly framework. This framework includes mobile forms that can be run via a web browser to reduce the need for paper-based data capture, reducing the burden and cost.



## KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Will personally identifiable information (PII) be shared with federal government agencies or private companies for any purpose?** No. PII captured in MicrobeTrace Next is secured with two blockchain keys. All data access and data movements are fully auditable, traceable and all transactions are immutable. Using role based security control, accounts tied to non-jurisdiction users will not have the option to be given access to PII.

**Will MicrobeTrace Next work with other systems?** Yes. MicrobeTrace Next is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) contact tracing data structure therefore any system that is compatible with WHO can interoperate with MicrobeTrace Next. The MicrobeTrace Next team is working with the HL7 and IEEE boards to ensure the new COVID-19 specific codes being created will be compatible.

**What if I need additional features in MicrobeTrace Next?** Current release plans include integration with Secure Monitoring and Reporting for Public Health (i.e., Situational Awareness Response Assistant (SARA) Alerting System) and similar systems, allowing public health officials to enroll individuals and enabling individuals to enter their symptoms daily, providing public health departments real-time insights. The MicrobeTrace Next team, in collaboration with the CDC's MicrobeTrace team, is actively seeking feature requests to better support the user base.

**What kind of MicrobeTrace Next packages are there?** MicrobeTrace Next is available as a service to setup and maintain using existing end point devices. MicrobeTrace Next can be installed on site if a jurisdiction prefers to host the system in their data center. To rapidly support contact tracing efforts, bundles that include the hardware for both field and remote call center contact tracers are available. Configurations include rugged tablets that can be microbial cleansed. If total contact tracing solution is preferred, we are experienced in staffing both remote call center and field based contact tracers using local residents, supporting a variety of languages in any of the 50 states, counties or cities.

**Does the mobile form work with minimal or no internet connectivity?** Yes. The web form is designed to work with spotty or low bandwidth connectivity, and can work without internet access for extended periods syncing the stored data when connectivity becomes available.

**How do I get MicrobeTrace Next?**

Visit <https://MicrobeTraceNext.net> for more information.

## MICROBETRACE NEXT TEAM



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## Benefits

- ▶ Allows cities, counties and states to deploy a localized system following state and national guidelines
- ▶ Replaces significant labor-intensive components while retaining proven methodologies in a secure federated single point of entry system
- ▶ Allows for a secure national and regional contact tracing framework
- ▶ Supports data sharing between jurisdictions for multi-jurisdictional contact tracing efforts
- ▶ Enforces PII security with multi-key blockchain
- ▶ Provides data entry via bulk upload, or direct entry with no software to install
- ▶ Supports mobile data entry and analysis

