

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Equality



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INNOVATION BOOSTS MYSTERY CASE TRACKING

Victoria's fight against the deadly coronavirus pandemic has received a boost thanks to an innovation by Victoria's own epidemiologists and public health data experts, with the development of a new coronavirus Mystery Case Tracker.

The Mystery Case Tracker was believed to be the first of its kind in Australia to be created in-house and could save epidemiologists hours of time in contact tracing investigations.

The Mystery Case Tracker is a tool that supports the Department's epidemiologists in their investigations into cases of coronavirus with an unknown source of acquisition – colloquially known as “mystery cases” and could go on to be used to help with tracking other infectious diseases.

The Mystery Case Tracker started being used to investigate mystery cases in September, and will be used in future cases to help Victoria's health experts continue the fight against coronavirus and keep Victorian businesses open as we recover and work towards a COVID Safe Summer.

The Mystery Case tracker is “fed” contact tracing data and generates a digital diagram that maps the links between cases and contacts, and their movements.

Getting accurate information is vital and our contact tracers as always rely on people to be honest and accurate and to remember visiting places for a week or more before they developed symptoms. The tool will enable the expert contact tracers to process data and links from different sources into a user friendly and quicker set of connections that will help us detect and trace outbreaks and contacts faster – meaning we can better stop outbreaks in their tracks

The Mystery Tracker will continue to evolve with new elements being introduced, including expanded location identification capability, and automated alerts about potential new outbreaks.

As with all emergencies Victoria remains ready to provide support, including sharing the tools and knowledge we've gained in responding to and containing the spread of COVID with other jurisdictions - and this would be the case for any other states interested in using the Mystery Case Tracker.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

“Staying one step ahead of this incredibly infectious virus means continuing to advance our case and contact tracing systems, to keep our community safe.”

“Finding the link between people, places and times is the key to outbreak investigation and management – the team have done an amazing job to build this new tool that allows these investigations to be done quickly and robustly.”

“We’ve all got a part to play to protect ourselves and those we love from this virus – whether it’s the public health team who are working around the clock, cases providing accurate information to help them do their work, or every Victorian who is staying at home and getting testing when they’re sick – we thank you.”