



The SwissCovid App at Month 4: Where do we stand ?

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(on behalf of the many persons listed at the end)

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Steps in digital proximity tracing

Person A tests positive for Sars-CoV-2.

**Person A
(Index Case)**



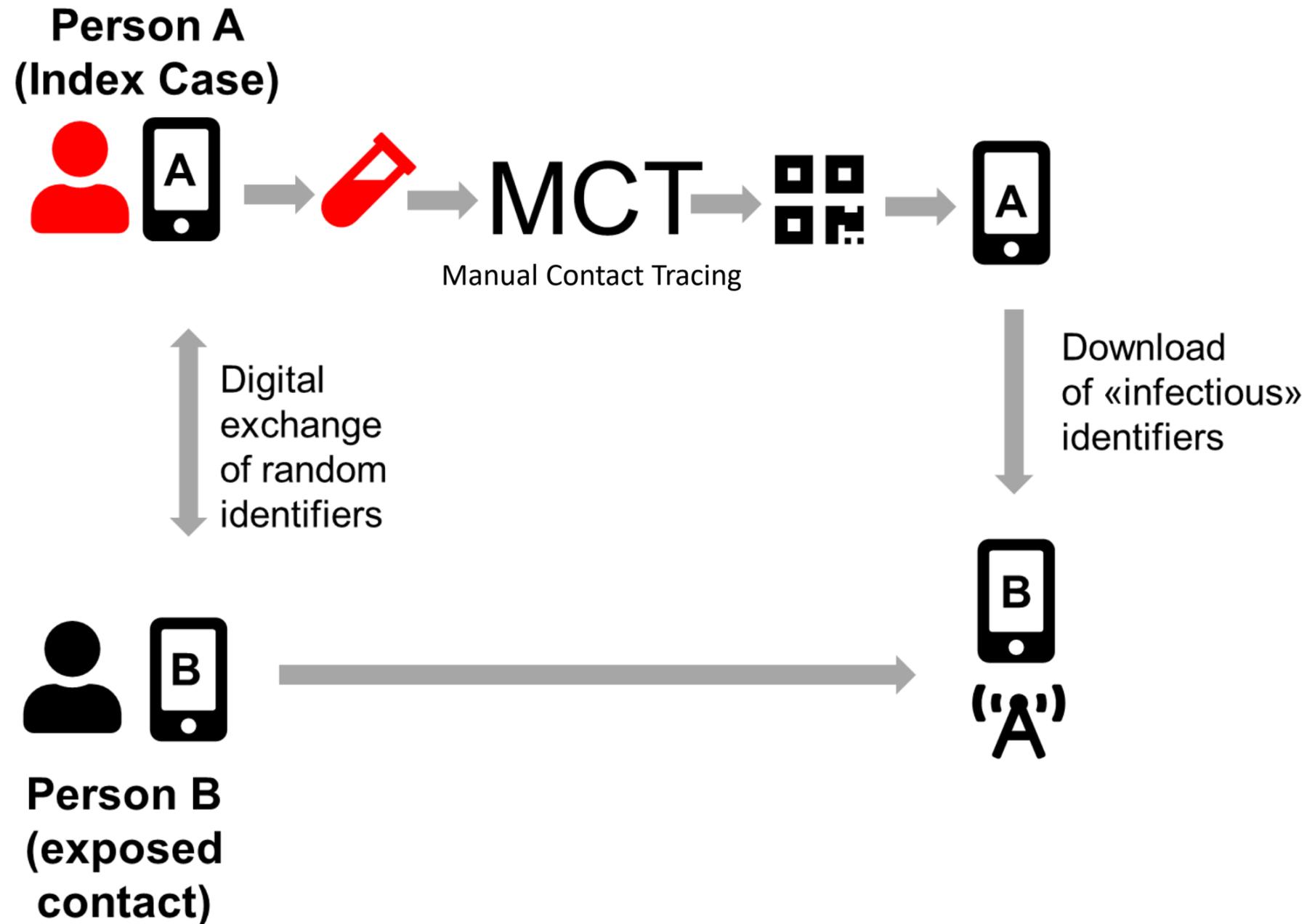
↑
Digital
exchange
of random
identifiers
↓



**Person B
(exposed
contact)**

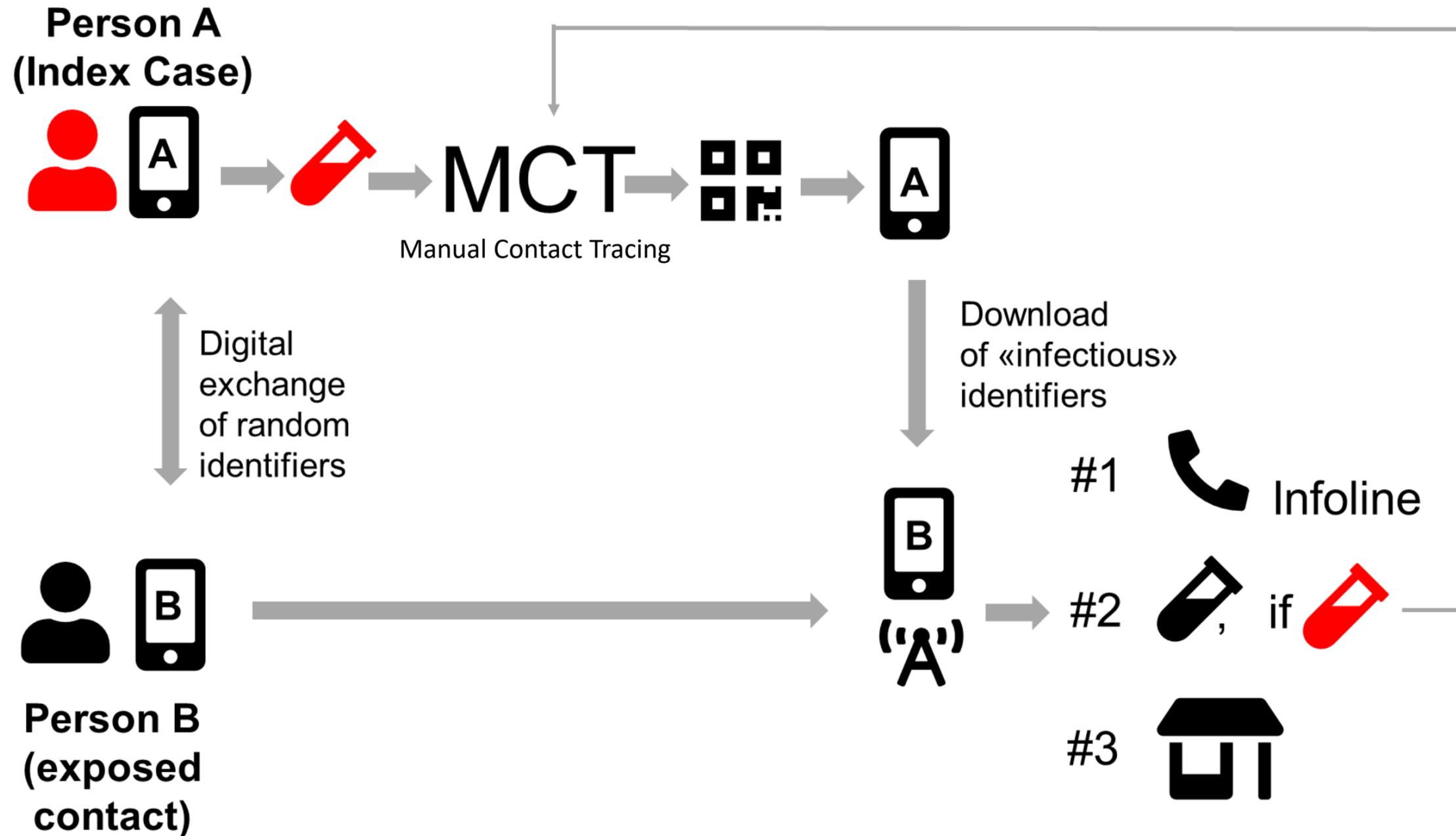
Steps in digital proximity tracing

Person A tests positive for Sars-CoV-2. Person B receives app notification.



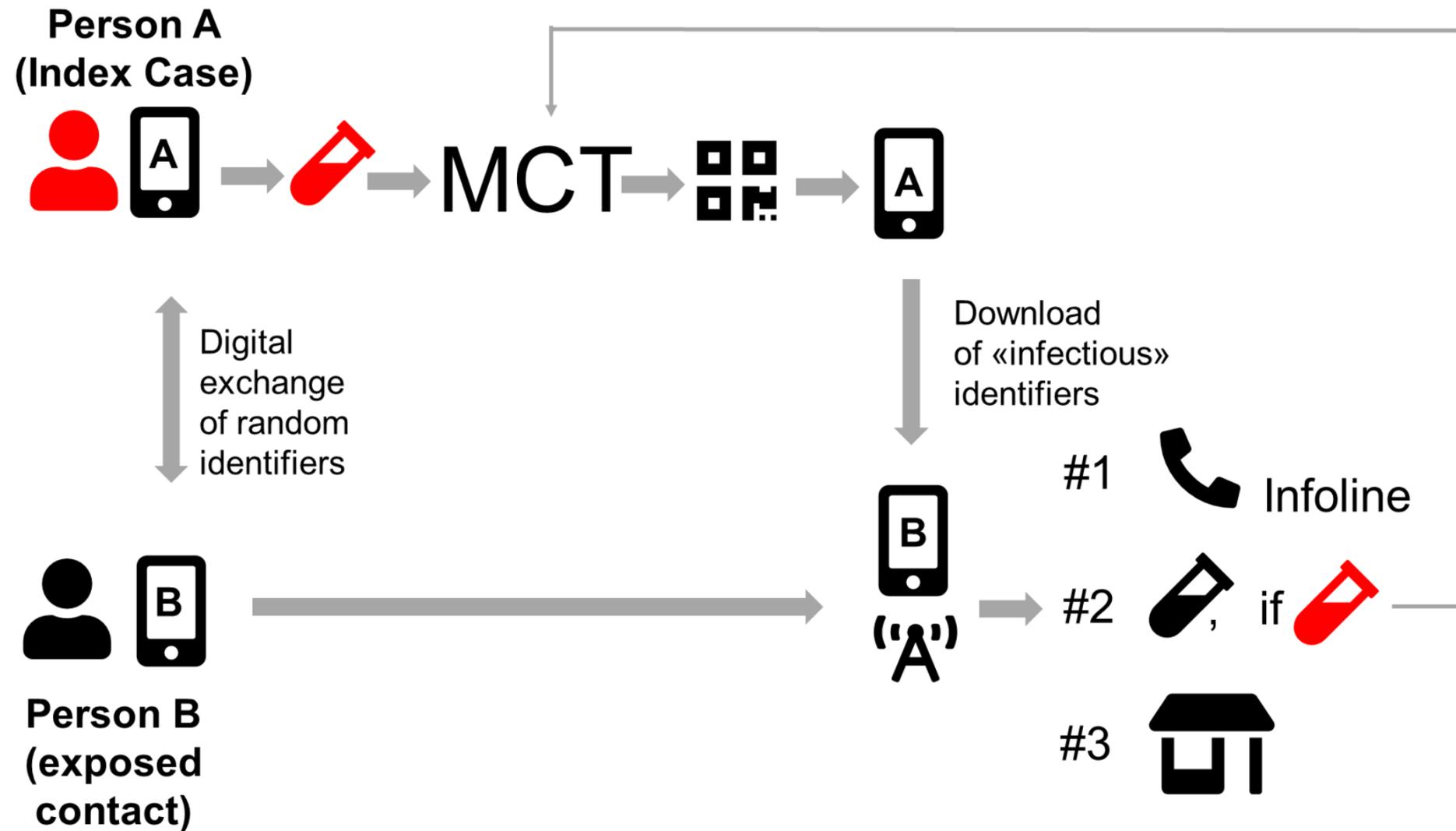
Steps in digital proximity tracing

Person A tests positive for Sars-CoV-2. Person B receives app notification. He/she should call infoline, get tested, and enter quarantine.



DPT is a complex health intervention

The intervention goal is transmission prevention, apps are just a tool!



Effectiveness of digital proximity tracing is conditional on:

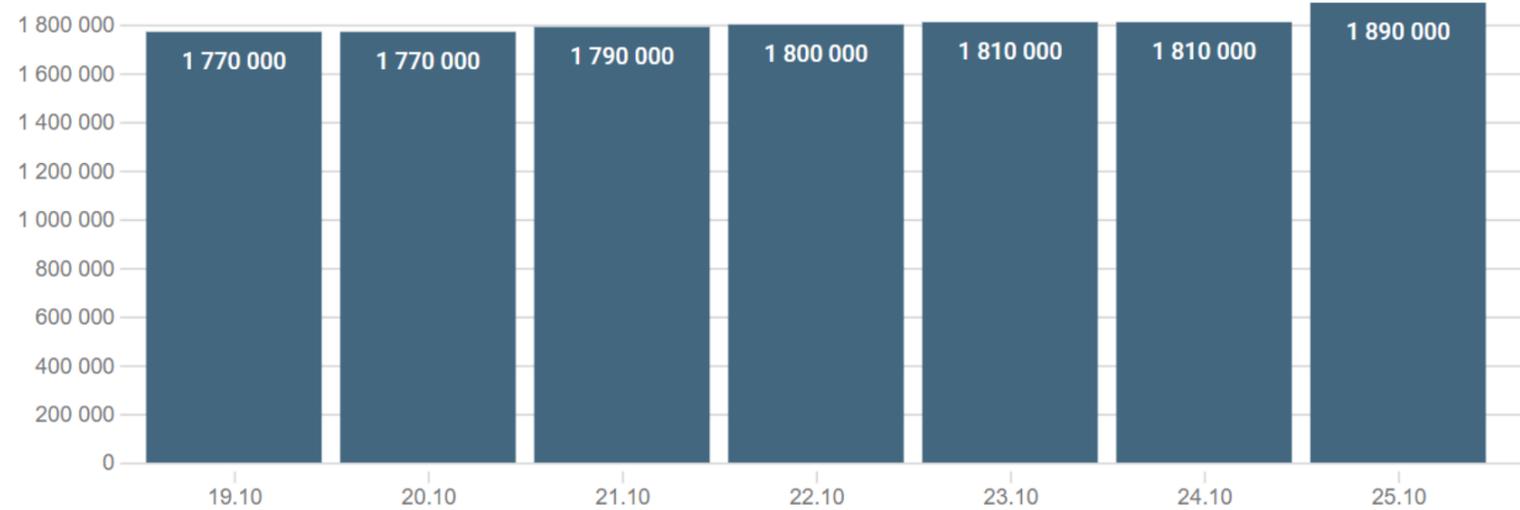
- 1) **A & B** used the SwissCovid app
- 2) **A** got tested and uploaded CovidCode
- 3) **B** got notified
- 4) **B did not transmit the virus further (breaking the chain)**

Monitoring of key performance indicators

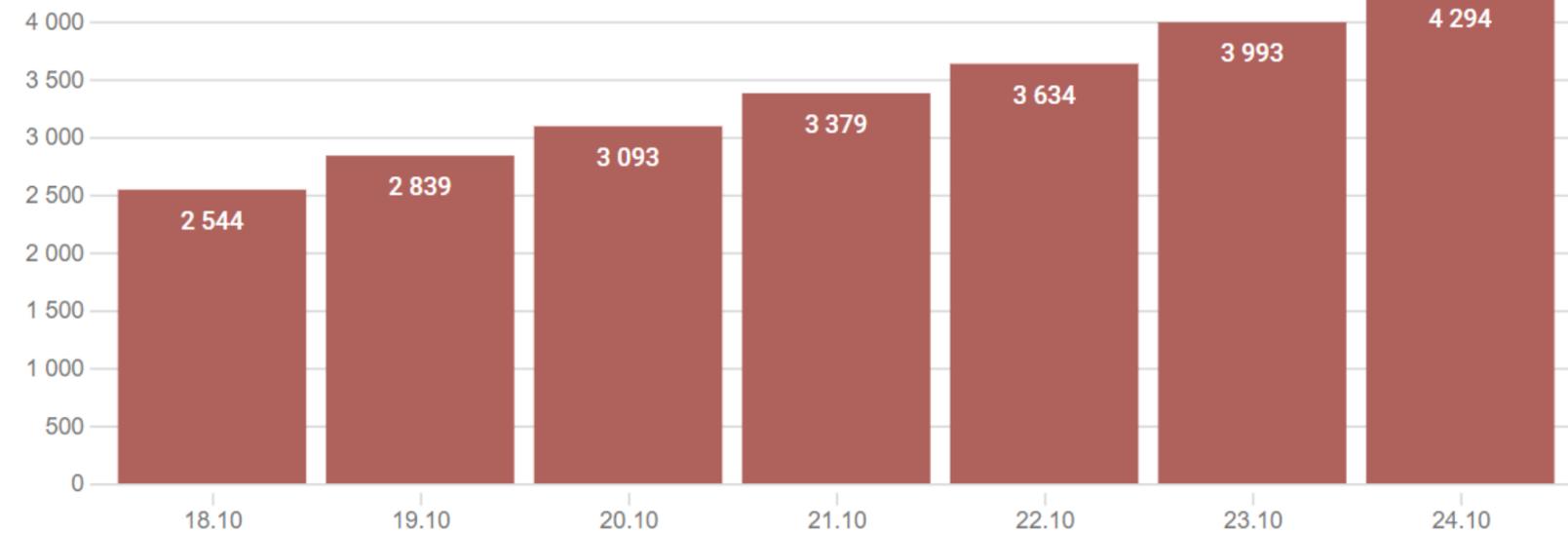
<https://www.experimental.bfs.admin.ch/expstat/en/home/innovative-methods/swisscovid-app-monitoring.html>

Total number of all active SwissCovid apps per day (new calculation method)

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Number of covid codes entered by users within 7 days



What were the biggest challenges for DPT success in Switzerland

Results from a media analysis (<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.22.20218057v1>)

B) Interfaces and processes

- 1) Delays in CovidCode generation (#2, #8, #14, #17)
- 2) Unclear connection between infoline and cantonal health authorities (#20)
- 3) Legal hurdles for cantonal physicians to order a mandatory quarantine based on app notification (#29)
- 4) Following a change of testing criteria, some confusion about procedures for getting free PCR test upon app notification (#14)
- 5) Interference with work, e.g. nurses with proximity contacts to Sars-CoV-2 patients (#61; #35)

C) Competition for resources

- 1) Initial fears of cantonal authorities being overwhelmed by persons receiving app notifications (#20)
- 2) Concerns that app development and operation will drain resources from other pandemic mitigation efforts (#29, #30)

App usage in the Swiss population

Results from a nation-wide panel survey including 1'500 respondents (Covid-19 Social Monitor, <https://csm.netlify.app/>)

	Mid-July 2020	First week of October 2020
Uses SwissCovid App	43.9%	46.5% (4% have uninstalled the app)
Reasons for non-use		
Not the right phone	26%	23%
Privacy concerns	24%	22%
Not perceived as useful	27%	30%
FOPH <u>weekly</u> case numbers	626	3'294

- Challenges for app effectiveness are primarily on the non-technical side (delays in code generation, lack of understanding).
- Lack of perceived benefit is one of the greatest obstacles.
- The biggest financial disincentive: there is no salary compensation in case of self-quarantine after app notification.
- Caveat: most data from before the second wave!
 - User motivations change
 - Process efficiency changes (new bottlenecks)
 - DPT becomes the «second line of defense»



Thank you for your attention!

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