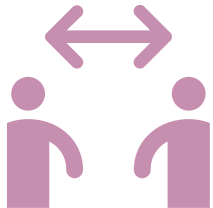


# GUIDELINES: CONTACT TRACING, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Rabbi Shahar Colt and Rabbi Ben Gurin



## Contact tracing initiatives that honor Jewish ethical imperatives should:

- **Be built in collaboration with trusted local community leaders.** The historical experience of American-Jewish immigrants highlights that panic and distrust of leaders can severely undermine public health initiatives. Community “insiders” offer crucial mediation that builds trust and encourages compliance.
- **Involve evidence that the strategies are actually effective at saving lives.** In order to justify overriding the value of privacy for individuals and communities, authorities must demonstrate that a contact tracing initiative fulfills the value of preserving life.
- **Involve explicit permission from participants.** People are more likely to trust and participate in a public health system if their privacy and agency are valued.
- **Respect the privacy of individual health information now and in the future.** Our ancestors’ resistance to being counted shows a strong Jewish value of protecting personal information from authorities who might exploit it.