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## Mexico City abandons compulsory coronavirus track and trace after citizens refuse to be tracked

By Didi Rankovic(<https://reclaimthenet.org/author/dee-rankovic/>) Posted 1:24 pm

Citizens are concerned about privacy.



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*No, thanks* was the response many residents gave to the government's plan for compulsory contact tracing through a QR code system in Mexico City. Privacy is a concern in Mexico as the government does not have a good track record of respecting citizens' rights and citizens weren't going to put up with any contact tracing.

On November 13, the local government of Mexico City tweeted that contact tracing through a QR code system would be compulsory at public places such as restaurants.

"All persons entering a closed space must scan a QR code with their mobile device," the graphic stated, atop a list of steps spelling out how the program will work.

“The system will allow us to identify positive cases and stop chains of contagion. Therefore, its use will be mandatory,” the local government announced.

The Mexico City authorities planned to make it compulsory for businesses since the city is on high alert for COVID. The QR code would have to be displayed at the entrance of any premise. People entering the business would then have to scan the code using an app on their smartphones. After scanning, their numbers would be added to a database so that they would be contacted if someone who visited the same business later tests positive for COVID.

However, residents of Mexico City took issue with the fact that the government wanted to make the contact tracing through the QR code system compulsory.

“I’m not going to scan anything. Thanks for the suggestion, though,” one person replied.

“No, it’s not our duty to give you our data. You have earned our mistrust. Nor should it be mandatory to carry a cellphone,” Verónica Calderón, a journalist, wrote in a tweet.



**Ma Elena Pérez-Jaén Zermeño** 🇲🇪 🇪🇸 @MElenaPerezJaen · Nov 16 ...  
**#ALERTA.** Bajo ninguna circunstancia lo hagan. Nada nos obliga a escanearlo. ¿Entregarían su información personal a las autoridades de la CDMX y a @Claudiashein? Es una violación a la privacidad. NO, NO, NO 🙅🙅

**Gobierno CDMX** @GovCDMX · Nov 13

A partir de la próxima semana, en los establecimientos podrás encontrar un código QR, 📱 el cual deberás escanear a tu entrada. Con esta acción, reforzaremos la estrategia para cortar la cadena de contagios por #COVID19.

Así funcionará: 🙅

Juntas y #JuntosVamosASalirAdelante 🤝

⚠️ La Ciudad de México está en semáforo naranja con alerta ⚠️

### Sistema obligatorio de identificación de contagios en espacios cerrados



Todas las personas deberán **escanear un código QR con su celular a la entrada a cualquier lugar cerrado:** comercios, espacios de trabajo como call centers, oficinas de gobierno.

Este sistema permitirá **identificar los contactos de los casos positivos y cortar cadenas de contagio.** Por lo que su uso es obligatorio.

Se notificará a las personas vía SMS o por LOCATEL que estuvieron en el mismo lugar y a la misma hora con un caso positivo.

Se les orientará para que: **se realicen una prueba, permanezcan en aislamiento y reciban seguimiento médico.**

Los establecimientos deberán registrarse en [medidassanitarias.cdmx.gob.mx](https://medidassanitarias.cdmx.gob.mx) a partir del **miércoles 18 de noviembre**; imprimir el código QR de su establecimiento y pegarlo en la entrada para el registro de clientes

El INVEA realizará verificaciones y **el establecimiento será suspendido en caso de incumplimiento.**



María Elena Pérez-Jaén Zermeño, a former commissioner at the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information, now a privacy advocate, advised her 75k followers not to use the QR code system “under any circumstances.” She called the system “a violation of privacy.” Her tweet got more attention than the original tweet by the Mexico City government.

Mexicans do not have a problem with QR code technology. In fact, QR codes are common at restaurants for browsing menus. However, they are not ready to use a QR code to hand over private data to the government.

Mexicans have good reasons not to trust the government. For instance, in 2017, it was discovered that the federal government was using spyware that was supposed to help track terrorists to track its critics.

To many Mexicans, the government would eventually use the contact tracing through the QR code system for the wrong reasons. Mostly that’s because the government is not very good at respecting the rights of its citizens.

The backlash to the idea of a compulsory contact tracing system forced the local government to backtrack. On Thursday, four days before the day the plan was supposed to be implemented, the government announced that the use of the QR code app would not be compulsory for both individuals and businesses since more people said they would ignore it.



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