COVID 19 APP

The NHS Covid 19 App is highly recommended to everyone with a smartphone. It helps protect your loved ones and the community faster.

The app registers a contact if the two people have been within a certain distance (less than 2m) of each other for a certain amount of time (more than 15minutes), according to what is known about the transmission of Covid-19. No information is sent to the NHS or other bodies. If for any reason a person wishes to delete the app from the phone, all the data is also deleted. Similarly, if the app registers that someone you have met recently has been tested positive for Covid-19, it will tell you what you need to do.

There are six benefits to the app which will help users:

• Trace: For contact tracing, the app detects and logs other nearby app users using random unique IDs. If any of those users later test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), you will receive an exposure alert with advice on what to do. If you are under 18, you are advised to show this alert to a trusted adult.

• Alert: When you first register for the app you will be asked for the first half of your postcode. You can check the app every day to see whether where you live has become a high-risk area for coronavirus. If it is, you will also receive a notification to let you know. This will help you make daily decisions to protect yourself and those you love.

• Check-in: The app allows you to record when you visit a venue by "checking-in" when you arrive, using the venue's QR code. The app records the time you spend at the venue without recording any personal information. You will receive an alert, if you have recently visited a venue where you have come into contact with coronavirus.

• Symptoms: If you feel unwell, you can use the app to check if your symptoms could be related to coronavirus (COVID-19). The app will give you a list of potential symptoms and you can then choose the ones that apply to you. It will then tell you if your symptoms suggest you have coronavirus. • Test: If you have coronavirus symptoms, the app will take you to a website where you can book a test to see if you have coronavirus or not.

• Isolate: If you have been advised by the app to self-isolate, the app provides a countdown timer so that you can keep track of how long you need to self-isolate. When you reach the end of your self-isolation period, the app will send you a notification reminder with a link to the latest advice for you. If a person using the app tests positive for Covid-19 at some stage, they are given instructions about how to share the information through the system, so that those who have been in contact with them can be notified via the app.

St Mary's has a QR code which you will see in the church. If you are attending church you can use your phone to scan the code, which will register with the app and note your attendance. Then, if it turns out that a number of others who went there have been tested positive, the app will give an alert and provide instructions. This does not replace the main operation of the app, which depends on the distance and time in which individuals are in close contact, but it provides additional information.