NHS COVID app release date

And the date is…

The date for the release of the new NHS COVID-19 contact-tracing app is **THURSDAY 24th September**. It will then be launched across England and Wales according to the UK Gov.

Businesses are getting ready

Businesses across England and Wales like pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and cinemas are at present being urged to ensure they have NHS QR code posters visible on entry. This will enable customers who have downloaded the new NHS COVID-19 app to use the NHS smartphone app to easily check-in.

The government are also asking businesses and venues to display the new QR codes, which can be downloaded via a website to display as posters, in premises.

With coronavirus cases rising in the UK over the last few weeks it is essential businesses capitalise on the benefits QR codes which bring to protect both themselves and their customers.

Businesses who are already using their own QR system are being encouraged to switch to the NHS Test and Trace QR code. An alternative check-in method must also be maintained to collect the contact details of those customers who don't have the app.

After Thursday 24th September

Following the launch of the new NHS COVID-19 app, customers and visitors in England and Wales will be able to check-in on entry with their phone instead of filling out a check-in book or tool specific to a business. This will allow NHS Test and Trace to easily contact customers with public health advice

should there be a COVID-19 outbreak.

What the app does regarding Check-in

1. When someone enters a venue and scans an official QR poster, the venue information will be logged on the user's phone.
2. Each venue has its own Location Identity.
3. The location information scanned on entry will stay on a user's phone for 21 days.
4. **NO INFORMATION** at any time is send from your phone to the government.
5. If in the next 21 days a coronavirus outbreak is identified at that location, the venue ID in question will be sent to ALL devices.
6. The App will check if users have been at that location and if so, users may get an alert with advice on what to do based on the level of risk.

What else does the app do?

The full details can be seen the the app website. However it can help with the following:

- Tracing (using a risk-scoring algorithm it works out how likely you are to infect or be infected by contacts)
- Alerts (What is you Postcode risk level)
- Check-in (see above)
- Symptoms (you can report your symptoms onto the app)
- Testing (it will advise you how to book a test if needed)
- Isolating (it provides a self isolating countdown)

"World Beating app"

Now that the app is here on Thursday, it will of course need for the large percentage of the population to download, install and carry their phone around at all times. People will

need also to switch their phones on! I am happy that no information is now stored in a central database and I do hope that it proves to be world beating. It however, very similar to app other countries have been using for quite some time.