

# DATA

## TACKLING EMERGING ISSUES

Malaysia's Selangor State Government has reportedly established an analytical platform powered by big data analytics and machine intelligence as a guide to conduct focused and targeted activities such as 'community filtering', 'close tracking' or 'contact tracing'.

In this manner, a proliferation of technologically-led solutions emerged in order to tackle the virus – from understanding and tracking the virus' spread, to localised modelling for public healthcare systems.

This Snapshot explores issues relating to data: the availability of **open and transparent data**, and some **gaps and issues** associated with **data collection and analysis**.

## SOLUTIONS SNAPSHOT

### OPEN DATA



Open data is vital to governments, private sector, researchers and the public to harness collective intelligence during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to accelerate research and understanding the virus. The UN COVID-19 Data Hub, ZDNet and MIT Technology Review highlights several of these open source data repositories.

Singapore's 'UpCode' Dashboard has been praised for being clean, easy to navigate and insightful. These are scrapped from data provided by Singapore's Ministry of Health, which is said to be "exceptionally transparent about coronavirus data".

### ACCESS TO PATIENT DATA



A research investigating COVID-19 related hospital deaths examined the records of 17 million patients using OpenSAFELY, a secure analytics platform where information is pseudonymised and a log is kept for all activity. Research of such scale was previously unprecedented due to privacy concerns.



### LACK OF DIS AGGREGATED DATA



Despite the growing amount of data, disaggregated data – data broken down into more detailed categories – is notably missing, making it difficult to measure impact of the virus based on gender and ethnicity.

Public Health England was reportedly unable to make recommendations in its COVID-19 BAME report due to this issue. Similar concerns have been raised in regard to the Southeast Asia COVID-19 response.

### CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing apps have emerged globally amid surrounding debates on privacy and security issues. Some countries have made it compulsory, while many others have opted for a voluntary basis. In Malaysia, users are offered e-wallet credits if they download the app.



Responding to these concerns: Apple and Google released a software for countries to adopt a more privacy-centric model. In the UK, a Coronavirus Safeguards Bill is being advocated for. In Europe, two main collaborative efforts were created to address privacy and security concerns through PEPP-PT and DP-3T protocols.

### DATA GOVERNANCE

With the intensified data collection, a comprehensive framework for data governance becomes increasingly vital. Key considerations include finding the balance between individuals' privacy and data-collection for the overall public interest.