

Dear fellow Texan,

Sharing your experiences during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic can help inform the impact the disease is having on all of us in Texas. As you may have heard, it has been challenging to track rates of infection. We, at UTHealth School of Public Health are collaborating with Harvard Medical School and would like to invite you to help address this challenge by taking 1-3 minutes per day to report how you feel, even if well, on a new COVID-19 Symptom Tracker developed by physicians and epidemiologists at Harvard, King's College in the UK and software engineers at Zoe, a health data science company.

To participate, please click the appropriate link below on your smartphone to download the app:

For Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/covid-symptom-tracker/id1503529611?ls=1>

For Android/Google: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.joinzoe.covid_zoe

All data collected will be completely confidential and de-identified. Only aggregate data will be reported. UTHealth will receive the de-identified data on the backend for analysis which will help us here in Texas to understand the extent of potential community transmission and support public health decision making efforts.

Taking part in this project is optional. However, we hope that you will be willing to join us in this unique opportunity to contribute to our state's response to this unprecedented threat. For this project, we are interested in information from everyone, even if they feel well. Therefore, please share this information with your family members, friends and colleagues. The more people that use the app, the more helpful it will be!

We thank you for considering participation in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Shreela V. Sharma, PhD, RDN
Professor of Epidemiology,
Principal Investigator
UTHealth School of Public Health, Houston
Email: Shreela.V.Sharma@uth.tmc.edu

Bijal Bala, PhD,
Associate Professor of Epidemiology,
Principal Investigator
UTHealth School of Public Health, Dallas
Email: Bijal.A.Balasubramanian@uth.tmc.edu