



COVID19: What's coming next in public health and privacy of biological data



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What's coming next in public health and privacy of biological data: "Antibody monitoring" of recovered patients by IgG test.

What's coming next in public health and privacy of biological data: "Antibody monitoring" of recovered patients by IgG test.

The Government announces the monitoring of patients recovered from Covid-19 through "massive antibody tests", IgG, to determine who can return safely to work, or who have passed the pandemic without symptoms or have not been infected by the coronavirus.
<https://www.emol.com/noticias/Nacional/2020/04/14/983013/minsal-examenes-identificar-no-contagiantes.html>

This follows the "route of great hope" referred to in an article published in Germany by Der Spiegel quoted today by The Counter.
<https://m.elmostrador.cl/noticias/sin-editar/2020/04/13/prueba-de-anticuerpos-la-otra-etapa-de-testeo-esencial-para-combatir-el-covid-19/>

This is another step toward the "biological passport" proposed by the biometric solutions that we have already discussed in this blog, and which should certainly be positively valued in their collaborative aspects for the well-being of global health. In any case, the scientific community proposes to apply the IgG tests only for research purposes and not for the detection of the coronavirus since for this virus it gives a high rate of false positives and false negatives.

The legitimate question that arises anyway is what is the degree of protection of the genetic data obtained through these tests, to avoid a possible "data leakage" onto the biopharmaceutical industry without the knowledge or express consent of the owner of such genetic data or the related DNA.



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<https://m.elmostrador.cl/cultura/2020/04/15/el-debate-en-chile-sobre-como-usar-la-tecnologia-para-controlar-el-coronavirus/>

If a solution will be to donate the genetic data, it must be made clear if such donation would be to the State of Chile through and for the ISP, or if those same data could be further traded with the national or global pharmaceutical industry.

If so, the potential donor must know what he donates, to whom he donates and for what. The donor must also be made expressly aware if his/her biological data can be transferred to third parties without compensation, for example to the vaccine industry.

If all information described above will be fully disclosed to the donor, full respect for the rules of bioethics is complied with and with the Political Constitution (artt. 5 and 19), with the recommendations 36 and 37 made by Resolution 1-2020 of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, in the same way proposed by the European Union, considering the universal value of human rights and economic-social rights in times of Covid-19.

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