June 24, 2020

Low Participation in Contact Tracing

Congress has given $631 million for contact tracing. The plan is to identify and locate every person who’s been exposed to someone infected with Covid-19. But many people may not be interested in sharing information.

Consider what’s happening in Louisiana, where the contact tracing program has been in effect since May 15th. The tracers have reached out to nearly every person with a positive confirmed case to ask them who they may have infected but nearly half aren’t answering the phone. Seeing an unfamiliar number may not help as well. Louisiana’s governor is pleading with people to pick up the phone, but people may not want to participate or may not want to put their friends and family at risk of being quarantined without cause for 14 days.

