



## **GPA COVID-19 Working Group**

### **Portfolio**

Recognising the continuing privacy and data protection challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Closed Session of the Global Privacy Assembly adopted the Resolution on the Privacy and Data Protection Challenges Arising in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic to continue the work of the COVID-19 Taskforce to build and strengthen the collective capacity of the GPA in responding to data protection and privacy issues arising from the pandemic.

Privacy and data protection authorities have played a pivotal and invaluable role in providing guidance and assistance to governments, relevant organizations, and other stakeholders on how to handle and share appropriately personal data in the context of the pandemic. However, after almost a year, countries around the world continue to fight the virus during their second/third/fourth wave of infections.

As an increasing number of medical, educational, business and digital solutions are being developed to respond and cope with the new normal, new privacy and data protection issues arise which authorities and regulators need to address.

Based on the GPA COVID-19 survey conducted in 2020, there are still important privacy issues that have emerged and as plans for recovery become operational, data protection and privacy requirements should be fully taken into consideration. Hence, the new temporary working group, this Working Group on COVID-19 related Privacy and Data

Protection Issues will continue the significant work and contribution of the GPA COVID-19 Taskforce to:

- Promote regulatory cooperation on COVID-19 prevention, mitigation and response;
- Contribute to the expansion of the GPA COVID-19 Response Repository and Event Calendar; and
- Build and strengthen collective capacity through the hosting of workshops or webinars to adequately respond to the data protection and privacy issues arising from the pandemic.

Given the fast-paced nature of the COVID-19 pandemic responses, the new Working Group will need to show an agile attitude and progress work quickly in order to be able to react swiftly to emerging issues. It will also need to focus on the most strategic and pressing issues whilst taking a forward-looking approach towards the examination of the privacy implications of the pandemic once the crisis has abated.

Recognising the need for the above, and following up on the remaining issues identified from the GPA COVID-19 survey, it is proposed to focus the Working Group portfolio initially on the following five (5) strategic issues:

**1. Alternative working arrangements**

- Handling of employee data in work from home/return to work situations
- Health monitoring of employees within office premises and those working from home

**2. Use of e-learning and online schooling technologies**

- Handling of children/students' data associated with the use of e-learning and online schooling platforms
- Obtaining consent of children/students

**3. Sharing of data between hospitals and health ministries, and other relevant government bodies**

- Sharing of data for contact tracing, research and development

- Sharing of data for distribution of government subsidies and benefits

#### **4. Processing of personal data for vaccination programs**

- Creation of a vaccination database/ information system for vaccination programs for vaccination distribution and monitoring of vaccine recipients
- Handling and cross-border sharing of vaccination data

#### **5. Processing and sharing of health data with regard to travel and passenger data**

- Handling of travel health data (including COVID test results and quarantine records) for exit and/or entry in borders (for both local and international travel) and enforcement of quarantine rules
- Sharing of passenger information between border agencies and public health authorities/bodies
- Passengers sharing test result data with public health authorities/bodies in relation to quarantine rules
- Development of apps for sharing of testing and vaccine results with airline carriers and/or governments

This new temporary Working Group will be headed by the COVID-19 Taskforce, Chair, Raymund Enriquez Liboro, Privacy Commissioner of the National Privacy Commission – Philippines.