

SPrinG App Privacy Policy

Last updated: June 1, 2022

Who is responsible for this app?

Your privacy is important to us. The *SPrinG* app (“App”) is owned by Unity Health Toronto and led by Dr. Flora Matheson at the [MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions](#) at St. Michael’s Hospital, Unity Health Toronto.

This Privacy Policy (“Privacy Policy”) describes the types of information we may collect from you or that you may provide when you use of our App and our practices for collecting, using, maintaining, protecting, and disclosing that information. By accessing or using the App, you accept the practices and policies outlined in this Privacy Policy and you hereby consent that we will collect, use, and disclose your information as set forth in this Privacy Policy. If any term in this Privacy Policy is unacceptable to you, your choice is to delete the App and no longer participate in the research.

We reserve the right to change this Privacy Policy at any time. It is our policy to post any changes we make to our Privacy Policy posted on this page. The date this Privacy Policy was last revised is identified at the top of the page. You are responsible for periodically monitoring and reviewing any updates to the Privacy Policy. Your continued use of our App after such amendments will be deemed your acknowledgment of these changes to this Privacy Policy.

Information we collect about you and how we collect it

We will collect your email in the registration process to create an account so App users can recover their account information (e.g., forgot password, loss of phone or deletion of app and then return to use).

Within the App we collect data that each user directly enters into the App and aggregate data on App usage patterns through Google Analytics (see below).

Participant Entered Data (Research Data)

After you agree to participate in the research study, you will be asked to complete a brief survey that includes questions about your age, sex/gender, education, race/ethnicity, income, housing status, country of origin, and if applicable to you, immigration/length of residence in Canada. You will also be asked to complete the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), which helps you assess the severity of your gambling problems.

With the Gambling Symptom Assessment Scale (G-SAS) embedded in the App, you can record your gambling symptoms. This is a weekly tracking process that allows you to see changes in symptoms over time.

The urge and gambling journals will help you to identify the types of situations in which you tend to experience urges and gamble. The journals allow you to track your urge and gambling experiences, including when they occur, your thoughts and feelings, the type of game and location, wins/losses, whether you were alone or with others, and whether alcohol or drug use was involved.

Google Analytics Data

Google Analytics collects aggregated App usage data, for example, how often you open the App, if you delete the App, and how long you engage with the App. These data will allow the research team to assess when and how participants use the App.

We limit what we collect and use

You will be assigned a unique and anonymous participant ID which allows our research team to know that the information we collect all comes from the same participant. Our study team will not attempt to identify you. This research is bound by our ethics certificate and approval by Unity Health Toronto.

We will not collect your name. We will save your email address on secure a Unity Health Toronto server for purposes of managing your account, account creation, account recovery, responding to your emails or as otherwise permitted here. We will not use your email address for any marketing or advertising purposes and will not share your email address with any third-parties except those necessary to manage the account or as provided in this policy. Be aware that your email may contain personal identifiers (e.g., your name, your year of birth) which may inadvertently identify you. The contents of the email you send may also inadvertently identify you (e.g., signature line; auto responses); in such instances, this information will be kept confidential.

How we collect, use, store and protect your information

When you download the App, you will be asked for your email address and password to create your account. To use the App after creating your account, you will receive and click on a confirmation email that identifies you as the account owner.

If you forget your password and need to reset it, you will also receive a confirmation email sent to your email address. Since emails are not as secure as regular mail or phone calls, anyone who sees these emails could know that you are taking part in this research. Emails may be read or saved by your internet or phone provider. Copies of an email may continue to exist even after efforts to delete the email have been made. There is also a chance with unencrypted email that it could be intercepted or manipulated.

The research data you provide in the App will be stored in a de-identified database. As noted above, you will be assigned a unique participant ID that will be used in all study activities to keep you anonymous. All information in the App (e.g. your name/username, email, journal entries, insights) will be kept on secure servers in Canada. Your data will also be kept on the

servers for use by our researchers until 7 years after the end of the study, which is usual research practice.

Disclosure of your information

Google Analytics

The *SPrinG* App also uses Google Analytics to help us identify how people are using App so that we can continue to improve it over time. Google Analytics may track your IP address but does not give our research team access to any information that can identify you.

Your rights to your research data

You will have access to some of your data during your study participation period. The research consent form has all the details about how this research is conducted and how your information is used for our research. To use the *SPrinG* App, you will need to have read and consented to the research consent form. As long as your *SPrinG* App account is active (that is, you do not delete your account), you will have access to some of your research data.

As described above, our researchers will have access to the data linked to your unique and anonymous participant ID to know that the information comes from the same participant.

You are free to stop your participation in this research at any time. To stop participating in the study, simply delete your *SPrinG* account or tap the button to withdraw from the study (and lose access to the App). No data will be collected from you any longer, however, any data collected about you up to that time will still be used in research related activities approved by Unity Health Toronto's Research Ethics Board (REB).

Questions or concerns

The Unity Health Toronto REB has the responsibility to make sure that the research follows this policy. For questions about the ethics of the research, including your rights as a research participant, please contact the REB at researchethics@unityhealth.to or 416-864-6060 x42557.

If you have any questions about this Privacy Policy including to make a complaint, please contact: Dr. Flora Matheson, Lead Investigator of the *SPrinG* App research by mail: 30 Bond St. Toronto, ON M5B 1W8, email: springapp@unityhealth.to or toll-free: [insert our toll-free #]