



**The Environmental Science, Mathematics
and Technology School
Intermediate School 190**

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190

Memorandum

Date: 9/16/2020

To: All Members of the I.S. 190 School Community

From: Dave Bentham Hume, Principal of IS 190

Subject: The Use of Contact Tracing Apps at IS 190

As we prepare for re-opening our campus as safely as we can in the midst of an ongoing pandemic, we would like to share our school's decision on the use of contact tracing apps. We have decided not to recommend a contact tracing app for two major reasons:

- 1) It would provide limited benefits in our school's pod-based model, where student movement is generally contained to begin with.
- 2) We want to keep student data privacy, especially when it comes to health-related matters, as a foremost concern, especially during uncertain times where we might neglect privacy in favor of the technological expediency.

This is not to say we have not explored or will not continue to explore options for a contact tracing app. As the cost-benefit ratio shifts, we may change our policy. For example, if enough of our school community shows a willingness to use a secure app, where the data accumulated can not only help us stop cases from spreading (Oxford University researches estimate we would need at least 60% compliance) but also inform our overall understanding of how well social-distancing is implemented at our school, then the benefits of having a contact tracing app might make us reconsider.

Similarly, if there is an app that eventually shows a strong track record of protecting user data while collecting actual contacts with fidelity, then once again, we might reconsider. We do not, however, want to rush into a decision. There have been too many stories, even from countries who have been hailed for their use of digital contact tracing apps such as Korea, of security flaws in hastily-constructed software that could be exploited.

One potential candidate for an eventual contact tracing app we might encourage use of would be the platform developed by Apple and Google, if New York State decides to participate in it. As of now, we will continue to wait and see, while doing the upmost to limit the number of close-interactions students have at our school.