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MEMORANDUM OF MANDAMUS

Dear Students, Families, and Community Members,

The COVID-19 Pandemic is, unfortunately, still ravaging our communities, our beloved city, and our nation. A cursory analysis of the most recent data on the actual spread of this disease and the projected threat of the same, clearly lead one to conclude that stronger and more stringent actions are required if we are to effectively and efficiently protect the health and well-being of our community members. Given the gravity of the current situation, and the projected worsening of the pandemic, it is with a sincere and empathetic resolve that I hereby decree that every student, teacher, staff member, and all other community members who require entering our school community must install and operate a contact tracing application.

RATIONALE

Recent scholarship on the spread of this horrible disease has taught us that an actual cure is not yet within reach. Nonetheless, the same scholarship informs us that we can take precautions that will protect us individually—with a collective effect of reducing or mitigating the spread to a vast number of our community members. To this end, wearing masks, washing your hands, and avoiding large gatherings (especially for extended periods of time) are simple (albeit it socially imposing) actions we can take on a daily basis to do our part to protect ourselves and one another. In this enduring battle, any tool we can employ to give us an advantage is most welcome. One such tool is a COVID-19 tracking

application. The advantages that these kinds of applications offer include: symptoms tracking, automatic contact tracing, and real-time data analysis to inform all of us of trends—in particular which areas are or may soon become “hotspots”. As you can probably surmise, these applications provide us with information and aggregate data analysis that one individual can do on their own with similar rapidity, efficiency, or accuracy. The advantages presented by this technology are completely worth the potential, albeit miniscule, disruptions they may cause to conducting our every day affairs.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION

Numerous states and technology companies have already developed contact tracing applications. Whatever application you choose to subscribe to is completely up to you as all the ones available to us here all report anonymized data to the state. What we do require is that you share your data with state agencies so that our school community is in a better position to receive information on whether a possible hotspot is in development in our region—better enabling us to take active measures to protect our community members.

CONCERNS ADDRESSED

These applications use bluetooth technology to communicate with other smartphones and smart devices. Each individual device logs information such as the number of people you come into contact with, the duration of these contacts, and the degree of your infection exposure. All of this data is collected in an anonymized matter and reported the same way. You have the ability to report your own symptoms and will receive advice on what you should do given the data you provide. While I am not able to fully vouch for the privacy protections offered by these applications, I am willing to support their use having assessed that their benefit supremely outweigh their relative costs.

DATA USE WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Upon presenting yourself at the entrance of the school you will be asked by the security agents to please show them your tracking application, in addition to having your temperature taken. They will ensure that your application is properly installed and functioning. They will not, however, search your application for any data. Failure to present evidence of proper installation of this type of application will automatically mean that you will be refused admittance onto the school grounds. Please forward all queries and concerns to our health liaison, Dr. Toldyouso.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dontplaygames