Marisa Shuman
Ethics
Week03
contact_tracing.pdf

Group thoughts: Marisa, Marieke, Usman, Christine, Joshua

- Intro into AI because it brings up the ethical concerns of how the data will actually be used.
- Our data is already being used so what does it matter?
- Can it even be implemented?
- It might fall out of our jurisdiction not only for legal issues but also whether everyone is using the same contact tracing app.
- If the idea is to trace the students' location at all times, then it becomes a privacy issue. We don't have the right to know what kids are doing outside of the school.
- A chip that only alerts a person about close contact only when in the school.
- Perhaps a tracing app that can be disabled once out of school. But how would you force students to turn the tracing app on when they are in school?
- What's the point of contact tracing if it only works in the building? Outside of the building it would be a privacy concern.
- Perhaps the contact tracing should be the entire classroom rather than 6 feet.
- DOE could have made students vaccinate if they wanted to physically be in the school.
- Schools can individually mandate it like they do with collecting phones.

My thoughts:

If I was an administrator of a school, I would not select to use an app to help with contact tracing within my school. While I am sure that contact tracing is very difficult and a huge undertaking (I also helped with it last year), I do not think it is worth the tradeoff of violating student privacy. I mainly feel this way because it seems that more often than not this would also enable schools to track student location outside of school. While I do understand that most apps allow you to turn off and turn on your location services, I do not think most students would actually do this every day. I think it is a complete violation of privacy for schools to be in possession of this data. If the app only tracked location at school I think I might feel differently.

I know there are a lot of other options for technological assistance with contract tracing. One that I would be more interested in tracks who you are near -- rather than where you are. I unfortunately do not remember the name, but do know that it sends out a signal with a 6 feet radius and if another person comes within that signal then the person's tag records the other person's unique ID number. Then if a person tests positive for COVID then they can look at the tag and see all the people who they were within 6 feet of. Definitely not perfect but is not recording location details of students which I do like.