

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Unfortunately, we are still facing the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic and although we want to take every opportunity to ensure that everyone remains protected, our school will not be using the contact tracing app. We have chosen not to utilize the app for the many reasons outlined below.

There have been many organizations that have opted to deploy these contact tracing apps, but we do not believe that these apps have been vetted enough in terms of privacy and security issues. One of the biggest security concerns is that the app utilizes Bluetooth technology to record when you encounter someone else who is using the app and reports to the other if either person has symptoms. Even using this technology at a low level still stores students' information for which we are not comfortable sharing.

We have concerns on who controls the app and what privacy policies they have in place. Does the school have some administrative control over the app and what information is being collected from the participants? For this reason, since we aren't clear how our information is shared or what third parties have access to, we are not comfortable with the developers having access to all personnel information. As with any technology, for it to be effective then we need 100% of the school community to fully participate. Thinking in terms of equity, one concern is that we are under the assumption that everyone can download this app.

Even if we have a very small percentage of members who cannot do so then we are not utilizing the app to its fullest potential. We want to ensure that if we were to institute this policy that we have everyone's participation and I do not think that we will get everyone on board even if we make it mandatory. Listed above are just some of the major reasons that we are not going to move forward with implementing this contact tracing app at our school.

We will continue to take all efforts to ensure the safety of all within the building. We will continue with rigorous testing every week. We will continue to isolate potential infected members and continue to distribute take home testing kits. We will do everything in our power to maintain a sanitized and safe environment for all.

Sincerely,

Your School Administration.