

MEMO

TO: Students, Parents/Guardians, Staff

FROM: Kiana Herr, Katherine (Kate) Maschmeyer, Joel Bianchi, Amanda Lee, and Maxwell Yearwood

SUBJECT: Respecting School Community's Health & Privacy

DATE: 09/15/2022

You may have heard that some schools are implementing a required contact tracing smartphone app. We will not be implementing such a program at our school at this time.

Protecting personal information is a high priority for the district. Without a close inspection of this app's privacy policies and the underlying technology they use, the district is not willing to put students' and staff's personal information at risk. Some mobile and web apps have a history of collecting and selling user data to advertisers, which is not acceptable for an app used by the school district. Even if the privacy policy is satisfactory, the district would require assurance that no personal information is stored, as even well-protected data may be vulnerable to cyber attacks.

Furthermore, the district does not have the authority to require a third-party app to be installed on private devices. Personal devices are not managed by the district; we cannot monitor or enforce the use of apps on those personal devices. Furthermore, students are under no obligation to carry a personal cell phone and are in fact encouraged to keep them in their lockers; many students do not own a cell phone at all.

The use of a contact tracing app is not a reliable form of contact tracing to fulfill the district's requirements with the county health department. Because not all students have a phone, may carry the phone, or may think to report a positive test in the app, the district will still need to follow its existing contact tracing policies. As the conditions that constitute an "exposure" to COVID-19 vary from week to week and county to county, the district is also not willing to rely on a third-party app to keep up with the changes.

The district may reconsider this decision if the following conditions are met:

- External funds are provided for mandatory school-managed mobile devices for all students;
- Only location data is used for the app, and the data is not stored or shared with other parties; and
- The district is able to obtain written assurance that a selected app is kept up-to-date with current county and state requirements for contact tracing.