Contact Tracing
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CSCI 77800 Fall 2022

Group activity

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Most group members thought implementing a contact tracing program in school would be a
good approach. The following ideas came up:

- We require everyone who enters the building to complete a health screening to slow
  down the spread of COVID-19.
- If someone was exposed to COVID-19, they would be required to take home a home-kit.
- These requirements must be met: As data is collected and people begin to test positive,
  there needs to be an outlined procedure for the next steps. What is happening with the
  data, and what is the recourse for a follow-up?
- Tracing people helps to protect the elderly population.

Along with the contact tracing, here are the guideline that must be followed:

- If someone was exposed to COVID-19, they are required to wear a mask.
- If they test positive, they must obey the CDC guidelines and quarantine for 10 days.
- A trained licensed professional should handle all the details related to COVID-19.

Individual thoughts

I think a traditional screening could be implemented in a school. However, the use of a contact
tracing application should not be considered an option for privacy purposes. On the next page, I
am writing a sample of a possible school memo where I explain how a school should proceed to
protect students and staff from COVID-19 and why a contact tracing application should not be
required.

September 19, 2022

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

As always, the health and safety of our students, families, and staff in our school is our top priority. We are committed to ensuring you have the latest information about the COVID-19 policies our school is implementing to protect everyone.

It is our goal to maintain students receiving in-person classes. For that, we must establish best practices for ensuring a healthy and safe environment. This will include but is not limited to: health checks, healthy hygiene practices; social distancing; personal protective equipment like face coverings; and cleaning and disinfection.

Regarding health practices, we will require anyone entering the school building to perform a health screening process. If the person reports no COVID-19 symptoms, they will be admitted. Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test should inform the school authorities responsible for informing about the situation to any close contact. Close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes over 24 hours of someone who has COVID-19 during their infectious period, regardless of face mask use. Everyone should follow the CDC guidance regarding quarantine.

We understand that using a contact tracing application could be an option of protection against COVID19. However, we consider that this kind of application should not be used in schools because a contact tracing application is like a type of surveillance that could endanger the privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberty of our students and school staff. Adopting this option would be like putting our freedom at stake.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate these extraordinary times. Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our school community. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with questions or comments.

Sincerely,
Jessica Novillo Argudo