

Contact Tracing Letter

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Dear students, parents, staff, and other members of the Bronx Science community,

As we continue facing the coronavirus pandemic, we have gotten lots of questions from parents and other stakeholders about the use of contact tracing. At this time, we are using contact tracing procedures when any student or teacher tests positive for covid. We are not currently mandating contact tracing apps, though we encourage anyone who enters the building regularly to consider downloading the CLEARED4 app.

We have chosen not to mandate this app out of concerns for accessibility and student privacy. While many of our students own smart phones, we recognize that not all students do, and we don't want to provide a barrier for students without a smart phone to access in-person classes. In addition, the contact-tracing app uses location data to determine whether the user has come within 6 feet of any users who self-report as testing positive for covid. This means that the app only functions when it has full access to the user's location data. We recognize that not all students or staff feel comfortable sharing their exact location to a third-party vendor. Of particular concern are our undocumented students, who may feel especially uncomfortable sharing their location data. In order to keep in-person school accessible to all students, we have chosen to keep the contact tracing app optional.

We *are* conducting school-based contact tracing for any student or teacher who tests positive. As a reminder, make sure to fill out the "Covid Reporting" Google survey on the school website as soon as possible following a positive test result. When someone reports a positive test, our programming office checks their classes and sends a "possible exposure" email to anyone who shares a class with them. We also work individually to determine any other students who may be close contacts, such as students who eat together during the lunch period. If you are notified of a potential covid exposure, please test yourself at home using a rapid test, which is provided for students monthly. If a student needs additional rapid tests, they can get more in the nurse's office. Our school-based contact tracing is robust and makes a contact tracing app redundant during the school day. As a result, we believe that the benefits of using a tracing app are outweighed by the negative impact it would have on access to in-person school for all students.

Thanks to all of our students and staff for your hard work to keep each other safe!

Best,

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Head of Imaginary Covid Safety Protocol