Superintendent’s Memo #209-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: August 7, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: COVID-19 Exposure Notification App Availability

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Governor of Virginia, recently announced the availability of a free COVID-19 exposure app using the Apple/Google Bluetooth Low Energy Exposure framework. This app is called COVIDWISE and was developed in a partnership between the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Google, and Apple. COVIDWISE allows you to anonymously notify others if you test positive for COVID-19, notifies you if you’ve likely been exposed to the virus based on positive reports from other app users, and helps you understand how you can protect yourself and others.

COVIDWISE was created with both public health and public trust in mind. It is easy to use, protects your privacy, and helps secure the health and safety of our communities. No location data or personal information is ever collected, stored, or transmitted via COVIDWISE. Use of the app is voluntary and you can delete it at any time.

The availability of this tool for mobile phones may be of interest to you in your planning for the reopening of schools.

You can download this app for free from the [App Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1518059690) or [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.vdh.exposurenotification). [Visit the VDH website](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise/) for additional information on how to promote the use of this app.

JFL/jh