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# NASUWT

## The Teachers' Union

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General Secretary  
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The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health & Social Care  
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries  
Unit  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Dear Matt

### **NHS Test and Trace App in Schools**

The NASUWT is receiving numerous reports from around England that schools are instructing teachers to disable the NHS Test and Trace App whilst in School. The Union also has documentary evidence that in at least one case, in the Wirral, that this instruction is based on advice from local public health authorities. We assume that this action is not limited to this one local public health team, given the range and number of concerns raised.

The Government's guidance on the use of the app in schools and when it should be disabled is absolutely clear yet it is clear that this is being disregarded and blanket disabling instructions given. Furthermore, the NASUWT is also aware of instances where teachers have been told to disregard app notifications to self-isolate. The NASUWT is extremely concerned that these instructions will lead to increased transmission of the virus and to more staff and pupils being required to self-isolate.

The guidance states that *'The NHS COVID-19 app (the app) is a key part of the country's ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) response'*. The fact that schools and authorities are giving instructions to disable it are undermining the apps effectiveness and putting the safety of large numbers of staff and pupils at risk, as well as the ongoing efforts to control the virus generally.

The NASUWT therefore insists that the Government issues an immediate instruction to all schools and Public health teams stating that there must be no instructions given to disable the app whilst in school unless one of the three criteria are met, and public health teams must not under any circumstances give such advice to schools.

I look forward to your urgent reply.

Yours sincerely



Dr Patrick Roach  
**General Secretary**