

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE Meeting Notes

1/4/2021

1. **Welcome-** those in attendance were welcomed.

2. **Review of Data-**

www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

School Dashboards- The latest data from the VDH School Metric dashboard. Currently, Henrico is at 668.8 cases per 100,000 (highest level) and positivity 10.8% (highest level). This is an increase from last week. The data for the surrounding areas are as follows; Richmond: 562/8.4 % Chesterfield: 568/13.6 % Hanover: 722/11.7 %

Dr. Viray states the increase is likely do to travel and social gatherings over the holidays. The expectation is that the region may not see a decrease right away, it may be a couple of weeks. She also explained that the increase in positivity rate for Henrico vs other localities is because Henrico has many long-term care facilities and they are holding mass testing in these facilities on a regular basis. The difference in localities also may be due to a difference in population and case burden.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/outbreaks-in-education-settings/>

3. **COVID 19 Vaccine update- Dr. Viray**

The HHD is working with HCPS on plans for vaccine distribution for staff. Currently, Fairfield Middle School is a vaccination site for those currently eligible for the vaccine. In addition, the Arthur Ashe Center and Henrico Health Department West are other sites where the vaccine is being distributed.

4. **Review of Preparedness for Re-opening**

N95- An order of N95 has been received. There continues to be a delay with the order of N95 that is a different type. They are expected to be received this week. Henrico County Employee Health continues to review and sign off on the medical paperwork. There are schools that do not have anyone who has fit tested at this time. The process for fit testing should resume this week.

Other supplies: All elementary schools have received the desk shields and desk shields for the secondary schools are expected to arrive this week. All other supplies such as hand sanitizer and wipes have been received and distributed.

Contact Tracing- Contact tracing continued over the holiday break. There were approximately 40 forms submitted in the last 24 hours. There have been three clusters of cases that started prior to the two-week break. School Health Services continues to meet several times a week with the Henrico Health Department to debrief on cases received. There are 3-4 contact tracing positions still open. Two additional part time staff have been hired.

Clinic Aide positions- There are 31 open elementary clinic aide positions, 3 middle and 1 high school. This has been a slow process due to limited applicants. All applicants for this position must have CPR and First Aid certifications or other medical certification. There was a discussion about how to best recruit for these positions. Advertising a start date along with reaching out to local hospitals was suggested.

Custodial staff- Facilities have not had many applicants for the additional custodial positions but current staff should be able to handle the volume due to the limited number of persons expected in the buildings.

5. **COVID 19 Education:** Dr. Viray asked the committee to consider adding to the screening form a question about if anyone in the household has tested positive. The committee stated that it would be better to do reminders and increase education around the need to stay home if someone in a household tests positive. A list of resources for those in quarantine would be helpful so they do not have to go out to get supplies.

6. **Next Steps:** Dr. Avula and Dr. Viray gave input on how community transmission of COVID 19 is different from school setting transmission. In school and day care settings that have been in person, the rate of transmission from these settings is low. This has been because of the mitigating strategies that have been implemented such as mask wearing and maintaining social distance. After discussion the group recommends the following: staff should report as soon as possible to start preparing and practicing the mitigating interventions in place before students arrive. The recommendation for students is PreK-2 -should be brought in at the start of the next semester which is in February. The group also recommended that messaging be sent to staff and families about the interventions that are in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID 19. The committee will continue to meet every two weeks to review and make recommendations as needed.

VDH COVID – School K-12

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/k-12-education/>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/09/Noncritical-Infrastructure-Worker-Algorithm.pdf>

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/10/Child-School-COVID-19-Algorithm-2020-2-pages_Final-1.pdf