

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

2/17/2021

1. **Welcome**- committee members were welcomed
2. **Review of Data**-Data was reviewed and presented by Chtaura Jackson. The number of cases per 100,000 individuals is 513 with a positivity rate of 8.7%. This is a change of -26.9%. The region has seen a decrease, but the number of cases remain high. There is still the need for strong mitigating strategies.

Chtaura also went over the new CDC recommendations for opening schools. See below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

This included the: New Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19* (reported over 7 days) (from CDC's New Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation)

The committee discussed whether to update the current health plan and mitigation strategies using the new guidelines.

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

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

School Dashboards

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

3. **COVID Vaccine Update**- over 5601 staff have been vaccinated with the first vaccine and second vaccines are starting today (2/17/2021). HCPS is working on getting staff who need the first dose appointments. This involves working with the health department for additional appointments at other sites.
4. **Sports and Return to Play**- on the VHSL physical there is no section for history of COVID infection. There is a concern about heart issues that may arise post COVID infection. There was a recommendation that athletes be referred to their primary care physician before returning to play after COVID infection. Chtaura recommended a gradual return to play approach. More information to be discussed at the next health committee meeting surrounding the how and when to return to sports after COVID infection. See American Academy of Pediatrics guidance:

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/>

5. **Volunteers in Schools**- currently the health plan does not allow volunteers in schools. The committee is reviewing this recommendation and if an addendum to the health plan would be needed. Some schools are using volunteers in ways that do not involve going into the school buildings. The committee recommended to bring in volunteers slowly using them for activities outside first and then if community transmission is down, bringing them inside. In addition to the volunteer form and background check that were previously required the following were recommended:

Volunteers must sign in and out. They must also be tracked for where they are in the building.

Volunteers must be screened at the school using temperature checks and paper screening forms

Volunteers will watch the COVID modules like those on Safe Schools (face coverings, handwashing, social distancing).

Volunteers should help in ways that minimize contact with other staff before being allowed to do other activities that require more interaction with staff and students. The PTA council will be consulted for their input.

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

- **PPE – N95 update** fit testing is ongoing. Supplies of N95 are going out to the schools this week.

- **Contact Tracing**- Crystal Oughton RN gave an update. With the additional staff hired, contact tracing is getting caught up on cases submitted but they remain busy with sports starting and more students in school buildings. There has been updated guidance on individuals who are fully vaccinated and need to quarantine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

6. **Next Steps –** committee to discuss summer programs and needs pertaining to having these programs later.

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>

The City of Richmond and Henrico Schools Team

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/Home-IsolationQuarantine-Release-Graphic_FINAL.pdf