

Henrico County Public Schools
HEALTH COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes
11/12/2020 Called Meeting

1. Welcome

Susan Moore, Alycia Atkins, Mark Bradenburger, Francine Bouldin, Beth Teigen, John Reeves, Christina Vitek, Dr. Danny Avula, Chtaura Jackson, Cortney Berry, James Upshaw, Karen Criswell, Robin Gilbert

2. Review of Data

Review by Dr Avula: Continued increase over the last 30 days; increase in hospitalizations has shown more healthy, young adults. Increases are community transmission and have not shown school transmission. Positivity is also increased.

Plan for HCPS: preK- 2nd grade return 11/30; 3rd-5th grade return 12/7. Secondary return scheduled for 2/1 with 6th and 9th having 2 days orientation prior to full return

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

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

School Dashboards

Pemberton ES update: This was NOT an outbreak. The school reported 3 community contracted cases of COVID and had two individuals with symptoms. Based on timing with virtual instruction and student holiday – caution was used in closing, deep cleaning and re-opening 11/16. All appropriate notifications were made.

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

3. Review of Preparedness for Re-opening

PPE

Staffing (Survey)

Distancing

Contact Tracing

As we look at data and preparedness: HCPS is on track with all mitigating interventions (lowest risk). Our number of new cases per 100,000 has increased to the highest level (>200). Percent positivity – has increased but remains in the moderate level. The central region continues to show fluctuation. While there is no hard number to quote for a change in course, continuing to monitor data and if highest levels are seen or continued increases, change in PPE availability the committee can and will make recommendation.

Post discussion vote: 11 votes to stay our course at this time; 2 votes to delay until at least post Thanksgiving break. Recommendation if delay is decided – bring staff back on current course. Staff needs time to adjust to being in new environment and

practicing skills that they will need to model. Allows anxiety adjustment prior to students in the building.

All in agreement that move to return will be anxiety producing no matter when this is implemented.

Points:

- Contact tracing is helping reduce risk
- Increase communication with supports, expectations (cheerleader). Possible with Dr Avula, additional townhalls (maybe add teachers from areas back in schools)

4. Sports Update – deferred to schedule meeting 11/16

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam signed the fourth amended [Executive Order 67](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/sports/), which included changes to section 12 related to recreational sports <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/sports/>

Virginia High School League (VHSL) also released guidance on mitigation and accommodation strategies required for individual sports and VHSL governed competitions. The VHSL previously voted to adjust their 2020-2021 competition schedules due to COVID-19. Winter sports are scheduled for December 7 – February 20; fall sports are scheduled from February 4 – May 1; and spring sports are scheduled from April 12- June 26 <https://www.vhsl.org/>

5. Next Steps – see above; next scheduled meeting 11/16 with called meetings as determined necessary due to changes in data or community situation

VDH COVID – School K-12

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

Henrico County Public Schools
HEALTH COMMITTEE Meeting Notes
11/16/2020

1. **Welcome**- members of committee were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Dr. Avula discussed current data trends. There are concerns that the numbers of cases per 100,000 and the percent positivity are increasing within the community. Vaccine information was discussed. The Henrico Health Department is working on a full implementation plan for vaccine.
www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

School Dashboards- 216.2 cases per 100,000 and 6.2% currently
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/outbreaks-in-education-settings/>

3. **Governor's New Mandates**- New mandates which include anyone over the age of 5 years old must wear a face covering and limits of community gatherings to 25 individuals. This mandate does not impact schools currently. It may impact spectators at indoor sport venues held in schools.
4. **Review of Preparedness for Re-opening**
PPE- HCPS has obtained PPE such as hand sanitizer, gowns, gloves. N95 fit testing has been on hold while Henrico Employee Health reviews medical paperwork. Once paperwork has been reviewed, fit testing will resume.
Desk guards are ordered and are arriving
Staffing (Survey)
Contact Tracing- There are currently three itinerant RN nurses working on contact tracing. The case load is increasing and help with this is needed.

Committee concerned with the increase in numbers especially with Thanksgiving and Winter Break which may include upcoming gatherings and travel. Committee recommends that in person learning be postponed due to increasing community spread of COVID 19. Recommendation made to return staff to buildings first. All staff to return in December to practice mitigation strategies and allow for additional training of staff.

Discussion led by Andy Jenks about how best to communicate information to parents and staff. Messaging tends to be long and it is important that messaging is easy to understand. Consistency and transparency are key factors to communication. Need to give staff and parents time to adjust to changing timelines. Committee is confident in the mitigation strategies that have been implemented. It is the data that has changed that has caused the concerns and recommendation for timeline change.

5. Sick out of School Time

Consider update to screening tool

Education for Principals and Admin on Algorithm

<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

6. Sports Update

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam signed the fourth amended [Executive Order 67](#), which included changes to section 12 related to recreational sports

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

Virginia High School League (VHSL) also released guidance on mitigation and accommodation strategies required for individual sports and VHSL governed competitions. The VHSL previously voted to adjust their 2020-2021 competition schedules due to COVID-19. Winter sports are scheduled for December 7 – February 20; fall sports are scheduled from February 4 – May 1; and spring sports are scheduled from April 12- June 26

<https://www.vhsl.org/>

Committee hesitant to recommend sports continue until in school learning can take place. If sports continue then mitigating measures such as screening prior to admission, limiting spectators and limiting sports with physical contact should be in place. Athletics and conditioning practices should be held outdoors whenever possible.

7. DOLI Update

Infectious Disease Preparedness Plan Revision- still in progress

- 8. Next Steps** – recommendation of committee (above) will be taken to Dr. Cashwell for consideration. Committee will continue to meet as scheduled with additional meetings to be held after each school break (November 30, 2020 and January 4, 2021)

VDH COVID – School K-12

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

Henrico County Public Schools
HEALTH COMMITTEE Meeting Notes
11/30/2020

1. **Welcome**- committee members were welcomed. This is the post-holiday meeting that was scheduled. Committee will also meet next week.
2. **Review of Data**- Dr. Avula gave a review of current data. Henrico is reporting 90 new cases/day, previous highs were 50 cases/day. The demographics of COVID positive cases is different now. Most cases involve individuals between the ages of 20-40 vs earlier where cases were seen in the older more vulnerable population. There has also been an increase in testing prior to Thanksgiving holiday and with college students coming home.

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

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

School Dashboards- numbers currently are 342.6 per 100,000 (red) and 4.9% (dark green). There continues to be an upward trend in numbers. Hospital capacity is near normal which is good. Will likely continue to see spikes after holidays. Virginia is doing better than other states. There is an increase in anxiety with increasing case counts but even with large community transmission, in regulated environments such as schools, there are low transmission rates. Currently no case outbreaks within HCPS. Will continue to monitor and report.

Discussion about recommendations for isolation after traveling. There are no formal guidelines from CDC. Other countries are doing better than US currently. Discussion surrounding recommendation for employees that have traveled internationally to self-isolate for 14 days and not report to work during this time. This would be a concern for those who are not able to work remotely. Decision made to wait on making a recommendation at this time. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/travel-to-areas-with-widespread-ongoing-community-spread/>

Committee to discuss current timeline for in person learning during the 12/28/2020 and 1/4/2021 meetings and decide on any recommendations for change. Dr. Cashwell is given an update after every Health Committee meeting.

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

3. **Governor's New Mandates**- no new updates currently
4. **Review of Preparedness for Re-opening**-

PPE- desk shields for elementary are arriving daily. N95 fit testing is still on hold. Awaiting return of medical forms from Henrico Employee Health. Robin to reach out for an update.

Staffing (Survey)

Contact Tracing

5. **Sick out of School Time**

Consider update to screening tool- screening tool has been revised for clarity and will be posted on Rycor for families to sign acknowledgment form. Recommendation to add “extreme tiredness” to “general malaise or fatigue” in addition to other changes.

Education for Principals and Admin on Algorithm

<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

6. **Student Concerns-** discussion about increase in mental health issues being seen in students and families due to isolation and other impacts of COVID-19.

- Suicide- mental health forms are online and can be submitted for students with concerns. This data will be collected and reported at next meeting by Christina Vitek. Courtney Berry reported Threat Assessment data for this school year which includes 27 safety screens that have been completed with 25 of them due to self-harm.
- Re-engagement team data to be collected. Robin Gilbert will reach out to Jan Parrish for this information.
- Henrico County mental health data will also be collected if possible. Robin Gilbert to reach out.
- Mark Brandenburger reports that suicide prevention training usually takes place in the high school curriculum during this time of year. He will check to see how this is being handled with virtual learning.

CPS calls- Dr. Avula reports that although reports to CPS are down due to decrease in reporting by school staff because students are not in buildings, the emergency rooms are seeing more severe CPS cases. Mental health facilities are full and there has been an increase in wait time for non-emergent hospitalizations up to 3 months from 1 month. Dr. Avula shared via email, articles on non-COVID impacts of the pandemic on school aged kids- mental health, abuse, etc.

7. **Sports Update-** Mark Brandenburger shared VSHL link for schools not participating in winter sports.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wB2ZkGpPUoGnwxgjHRRmmDaTb5hJb4pt/view>

There have been on-going conversations about participation in Winter Sports. Recommendations on this are to be announced soon.

8. DOLI Update

Infectious Disease Preparedness Plan Revision- this will be going to DLT on Friday.

- 9. Next Steps** – Discussion about college student precepting assignments (nursing students, student teachers, psychology interns) and continuing these with the possibility of increased exposures. No reports of issues with exposures with student teaching and psychology interns. Robin and Karen to discuss nursing students and mitigation strategies to be implemented before clinicals can continue.

VDH COVID – School K-12

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

Henrico County Public Schools
HEALTH COMMITTEE Meeting Agenda
12/7/2020

1. **Welcome-** members were welcomed as they arrived in the virtual meeting.

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 was reviewed from the VDH School Metric dashboard. Currently, Henrico is at 393 cases per 100,000 (highest level) and 6.3 % positivity (moderate level). Rate of hospitalization is 87. 6% total beds occupied and 5.8% of beds with COVID patients. Data was reviewed for Hanover and Chesterfield. They both were in the highest category for cases per 100,00 and higher for percent positivity.
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/outbreaks-in-education-settings/>

3. **CDC New Recommendations-** committee discussed new CDC recommendations for ending isolation when someone is exposed and has had no symptoms. (7 days with negative COVID test/10 days w/o symptoms). 14 days is considered the gold standard as the other scenarios come with some risk. Committee decision was to continue to follow the 14-day recommendation as to not make any changes that may be confusing and concern with the high rate of community transmission. The committee may review and make different recommendations if/when community transmission and risks are lower.

4. **Governor's New Mandates-** no new updates from the Governor as of this meeting.

5. **Review of Preparedness for Re-opening**
PPE- Cortney reports that PPE has arrived and more arriving daily.
N95- getting started on fit testing again with priority being those who are most likely to care for ill students. These are nurses, aides, health room back- ups, and custodians. Other employees may be added once the above have been fit tested.
Staffing (Survey)- no information was provided for this.
Contact Tracing- number of forms submitted for both employees and students has been increasing. The case volume is becoming overwhelming for the current staff. There is a job listing for contact tracers on the HCPS website. (see details below)

6. **Student Concerns-** discussion about the emotional well-being of students, families and staff. Henrico Mental Health and Developmental Services has seen an increase in the amount of services provided this year. Other information was provided about limited access to students to provide school based mental health services. The Henrico Crisis Intervention Team has not been able to reach as many families.
 - **Suicide-** 64 suicide referrals made thus far this school year. Last year at this point in the year there were 375. Concerns about students receiving the mental health support they need while learning at home.
 - **CPS calls**
 - The committee also discussed presenting information that has been gathered about how the social- emotional well-being of students has been impacted during this school year as compared to other years. This information would be presented to show that there are multiple stressors that Henrico students are facing but not a factor in the decision of whether the committee thinks it is safe to return to face to face learning. This information could serve as a building block to gather information and what actions may be taken to best serve students and families.

7. **Sports Update-** HCPS is not participating in winter sports this year and conditioning for other sports is also on hold.

8. **Contact Tracing-** cases being traced are steady and increasing. There is a 3-4 day time period before contact tracing team members get back to employees and student families to investigate forms that have been submitted. HCPS is still getting back to them quicker than the health department. There continues to be collaboration between the health department and the HCPS contact tracing team. There have been more student cases that have come to the school's attention but in discussions with the health department, there are additional cases in the community, but families are choosing not to have the health department give this information to the schools. This will become more important when more students are returning to the schools for instruction.

9. **DOLI Update**
Infectious Disease Preparedness Plan Revision- in final revision

10. **Next Steps** – the committee discussed using 4-5 feet (instead of 6 feet) social distancing for two schools that have an increase in number of students who have indicated that they plan to return. A review of data for other school systems that are using a closer social distancing measurement was asked. The COVID task force team members plan to go to these schools to review the distancing and make recommendations as necessary.

The health committee is going to meet next week and during winter break on 12/28/2020 and again on 1/4/2021 in order to prepare recommendations for in school face to face learning. The committee continues to recommend staff come back first in order to practice the mitigation measures that are in place.

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