

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

3/15/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented by Chtaura Jackson. Using the new CDC guidance for school metrics the data for this week is as follows; total number of new cases per 100,000 is at 116 which is in the high category. The percent positivity of new cases is 5%. Which is in the low range. This is a decrease of 25.5% over the past 7 days. For decision making, VDH takes the highest if two categories are in different ranges. HCPS will continue to use the mitigating measures currently in place.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-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/>

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

3. **COVID Vaccine Update**- Vaccination efforts continue for the community at the Richmond Raceway. Last week 7010 vaccines were given in one day. There have been no issues getting HCPS employees their vaccines. These are employees who either missed the first opportunity or have been recently hired. All other HCPS employees that signed up for the vaccine earlier have received their second doses.
4. **Sports and Return to Play**- Contact tracing continues to work cases related to sports teams. They are asking the HCPS athletic directors to help with obtaining information so these cases can be traced. Mrs. Atkins mentioned a field hockey game she attended at Godwin High School (vs. HSHS) where the announcer did a good job of reminding those in attendance to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing measures. This would be good for others to do this at all athletic events. The messaging should be consistent. There will be a meeting with the athletic trainers to remind them about the mitigating measures such as face coverings and social distancing. There have been instances where these are not being followed so the meeting will address this.
5. **Transportation**- there have been several positive COVID cases that have affected entire buses needing to be quarantined. There is a real need for students to have assigned seats,

seating charts available and students to socially distance while riding the bus. Siblings also must sit together. Hiring of bus aides may help with enforcing social distancing and mask wearing while on the bus. Communications is working on the updates to the health plan which include messaging about bus seating.

6. Volunteers in Schools- The HCPS Directors of Education have been asked to reach out to principals and come back with information on how volunteers could be used in the schools. This will also include use of volunteers during recess. The volunteer guidelines are being updated. There will be a tiered approach to increasing volunteer opportunities. The head of the PTA council, Debbie has also been consulted.

7. Review of Preparedness for Re-opening

- **PPE – N95 update**- concerns have been raised about the use of the plexiglass shields doing more harm than good as they may inhibit air flow from circulating in the rooms. Currently, Susan Moore from C&M is not aware of any issues. The team will investigate this and update as needed. Chtaura and Dr. Viray were consulted during the meeting and although they have heard some information about this, they have not heard anything definite. They will research this as well. The plexiglass does pose an issue with the ability to hear while teaching/learning in person per John.

- **Staffing**- So the committee has all the information, it was suggested that Francine Bouldin bring a report about staffing to the next meeting.

- **Contact Tracing**- There are currently more student cases than employee cases. Many of these are tied to athletic teams. There have been no teacher exposures to student cases except in exceptional educational classes. There are two cases with potential spread. One was deemed a community exposure and the other was an exposure on the bus and is presumed probable.

8. Concerns from COVID liaison meeting

Recess- The question how many students are considered in a cohort during recess. All from the same in-person class with a maximum of 10 total students from different classes was recommended. There was also a concern with the availability of water to students when outside. No multiuse container should be used to refill water bottles when outside.

Adapted PE- it was the committee recommendation that in person adapted PE for the SIS/FIS class be limited and all mitigating factors be used if doing so. They cautioned doing this as it may lead to more exposures but also understands the benefits for these students.

Mental Health- John brought his concerns about students not being engaged now that learning is hybrid. Christina stated her team is ready to help as needed for these students and if there is a concern with a specific student then the school team should be notified. Multiple events and classes are being offered to help students and families. These include signs of suicide

curriculum being taught in 8th and 10th grades. A Bridge Builders workshop called “More than Sad” and a mentoring program called “Henrico Heroes” are also planned. A new social emotional screener is being developed. Ms. Atkins expressed concerns with students who are planning risky behaviors over Spring Break and if a fun and engaging message could be developed to educate about appropriate behavior.

Tools are being revised to gather data about students and attendance.

11. Next Steps –

Summer programs- More discussion to come on this.

Addendum to HCPS COVID 19 Health plan- Updated health plan is currently with the HCPS Communications team so messaging should go out about the updates soon.

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>