

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

3/9/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented by Chtaura Jackson. VDH has adopted the new CDC guidance for school metrics. There are now 5 indicators instead of 4. The threshold is 7 days not 14. The website is going to be updated on Wednesday each week. Currently total number of new cases per 100,000 is at 157.9 which is in the high category. The percent positivity of new cases is 7.3%. Which is in the moderate range. For decision making, VDH takes the highest if two categories are in different ranges. Although the numbers are trending down there is concern with an increase in cases after Spring Break. 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. HCPS has a process in place to assist new employees and those who have missed either the opportunity or second doses to get appointments for vaccines. School nurses continue to assist with vaccines, but their assistance has been scaled back because they are needed in school clinics as more students return to the buildings. School nurses will continue to provide support on Wednesdays and volunteer to work evenings and Saturdays.

4. **Sports and Return to Play**- Sports are seeing a significant number of cases right now. This has caused entire teams to be put out of play and if applicable, in person learning. These cases have affected five schools to date. Teams need to be reminded to wear masks when on the side lines and to social distance whenever possible.

HCPS will require a physician note to return to play after a positive COVID 19 diagnosis.

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.

6. Volunteers in Schools- Schools have submitted transition plans for volunteers and have been approved. These involve use of volunteers outside school buildings. The committee discussed when to allow volunteers into buildings and for what activities. A tiered approach to increasing volunteer opportunities was suggested.

7. Review of Preparedness for Re-opening

- PPE – N95 update

- Staffing- If students and staff call out sick related to COVID symptoms. The current recommendation is for the person to stay out for 10 days unless evaluated by a physician and given a note to return sooner.

- Contact Tracing- The contact tracing team continues to be busy and the volume has increased over the past week with the increase in students returning and with sports cases. School nurses are being used to reach out to families when many students need to be quarantined. The HCPS website will be updated every 24-48 hours with the number of cases and number of exposures. Sports will be separated into another category. Discussion about where this information is on the website and if it needs to be moved to a more prominent location.

8. Masks/face coverings- need clear guidelines for when students/ staff can take mask breaks. Also need clarification when students can remove face coverings when at recess. Current guidance is if activity involves heavy breathing such as running, individuals must be 10 feet away before removing face covering. If activity does not include heavy breathing such as using sidewalk chalk, 6 feet is sufficient for removal of face coverings.

9. Recess equipment- discussion about whether students should be allowed to use recess equipment. Concerns about cleaning in between students was expressed. The use of swings was discussed because it is easier to clean them. This topic was tabled for now. The use of swings by students in certain classes who use this as a release for increased stimulation will continue with teachers cleaning the equipment after use. This led to a discussion about using volunteers to help with recess. Some schools do not have PTA volunteers to help and concerns about whether this should be pursued as this may not be equitable.

10. LAMPS- discussion about these classes and if they should be held in person. Beth to take this to DLT for review and recommendations.

11. Next Steps –

Summer programs- The current plan is to offer in-person programs. More discussion to come on this.

Graduation- how graduation ceremonies will take place was a concern that needs to be addressed.

Addendum to HCPS COVID 19 Health plan- Updates to include volunteers, lunches and what face coverings are allowed.

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>