

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

7/19/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed. LaWanda Dunn RN, RHHD Nurse Manager and John Carroll, HCPS Activities Director were invited guests.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented by Karen Criswell. James Upshaw and Chtaura Jackson were not in attendance. Using the CDC guidance for school metrics the data for the week is as follows; total number of new cases per 100,000 is at 10.02 which is in the moderate category. The percent positivity of new cases is currently 2.2%. The percent change is -87.2 %. Discussion about data from week before included information from reassignment of cases and not a true reflection of what is current. Dr. Viray will have James Upshaw review and use a metric that filters out the data to reflect the current trends. She does have some concerns in clusters of cases that are being reported in day camps. Dr. Viray stated that some breakthrough cases are expected and have been noted. If someone who has been vaccinated is exposed to a positive COVID case, then they need to monitor for symptoms.
3. **Vaccine update**- Total number of children aged 12-17 years old who have had one COVID vaccine is 13,533 (52.1%) and those who have received two vaccines and are fully vaccinated is 11,135 (42.9%).

Data from the most recent immunization clinics was presented by LaWand Dunn. This included 107 COVID vaccines, 33 Tdap, 27 HPV and 26 meningococcal vaccines given in the school-based vaccine clinics held at Tuckahoe, Brookland, and Elko Middle Schools. This partnership was created to give HCPS families a chance to get the school required vaccines for 7th and 12 graders as well as offer the COVID vaccine to students and families attending the clinics. The second round of clinics are scheduled for 7/21/2021 and 7/28/2021.

Glen Lea Elementary- There may be a partnership with CHOR to offer physicals in August for students attending Glen Lea. In addition, HCPS will partner with the Henrico Health Department, East to schedule needed immunizations.

4. **Updates to COVID CDC guidance and Governors orders**- The face covering requirement continues to be in effect for all K-12 education settings where students are attending until July 25, 2021. Social distancing requirements and other prevention methods will be upheld in all buildings with students. This will continue until the end of Summer Academy and other summer

programs. RHHD will look for updates on guidance for schools and report to committee as they come out.

5. Review of Preparedness- there is still some information that needs to be gathered for the committee to make recommendations for next school year. COVID transmission rates along with guidance that may be given from the Governor and VDOE will be considered. This guidance is expected at any time and may include changes for contact tracing.

- **Staffing**- There are still 3 RN, and 1 LPN position open for school year 2021-2022. There will be aides staffed in each clinic again next year. There are 28 clinic aide positions open for next school year.

- **Contact Tracing**- Contact tracing responsibility has transitioned to the health department. A change has been made that a Red Cap does not need to be submitted for a pending COVID test. Submissions should be for a positive COVID case and/or an exposure to someone with COVID only. Dr. Viray gave feedback about pre-kindergarten students taking off face coverings for naps. She recommended that students do not sleep with face coverings but should be socially distanced as far apart as possible with minimum being 3 feet, but these students will be considered close contacts if exposed to a case. Committee discussed the implications on student's education if they must quarantine when exposed to COVID during the school year. Committee also discussed the increase in respiratory illnesses being seen in the community and how it is hard to discern what is COVID vs something else. Recommendation was to go get evaluated by healthcare provider. This is also an opportunity to re-educate about not sending students to school ill and for staff to stay home when ill.

Mental Health- Christina Vitek reported that the School Based Mental Health model is being actively worked on. There is also a social emotional survey that will be sent out as well as work being done on crisis response. There was a concern about brain fog as it relates to having COVID. Christina stated that all students and staff will receive support on re-establishing routines, relationships, and behavior. The psychologists and counselors will be visible and check in with students often.

6. Next Steps –

Sports- John Carroll reported that High School Football and Competition Cheer sports start on 7/29/2021. Each student needs a VHSL physical on file. Some schools have hosted sports physicals at the schools for students and families. Middle School sports will start September 8, 2021. The plan is to continue with same mitigation measures as before. This includes keeping athletes in pods, good handwashing, maintaining at least 3-foot social distancing and wearing of masks when indoors, in locker rooms and when not in play. Daily attendance will be taken and charts of where athletes are sitting when on the bus will be maintained. Dr. Viray also suggested that a message should be given to parents about student athletes who are fully vaccinated. They will not have to be pulled out of sports due to an exposure and no symptoms.

Volunteer guidelines- Volunteer activities remain at Tier 3.

Student nurses- HCPS will allow student nurse clinical experiences to continue.

Use of buildings- Buildings are allowed to be used at this time if they follow appropriate protocols. This is to be re-examined next meeting.

Water fountains- The health committee recommended that water fountains be open once again if they are monitored, and signs are posted.

Feedback from parents- It was shared that some concerned parents are contacting school board members and members of HCPS leadership team about what should or should not be considered as far as COVID precautions for the upcoming school year. For example, some parents do not want students to have to wear masks and some want everyone to wear them.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 8/2/2021.