

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

8/2/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented by Chtaura Jackson. Using the CDC guidance for school metrics the data for the week of 7/28/2021 is as follows; total number of new cases per 100,000 is at 56.79 which is in the substantial category. The percent positivity of new cases is currently 4.4%. The percent change is 65.5 %. The same metrics needs to be used for reporting and decision making. The VDH School Metrics is the one that is currently being used and Dr. Viray states this is good. James Upshaw can provide insight to COVID data as needed.

Discussion was held on sending the 10-day letter for students who present to the clinic as ill for this last week of Summer Academy and any sports or other activities currently being held. Committee members agreed with this to keep consistency as parents were aware of this during the school year. This will also trigger the volunteer level to be back to tier 2. This will be communicated to the head of PTA, Debbie Long. The HCPS directors, Justine Jordan head of Summer Academy and John Carroll, Director of Student Activities by Cortney Berry.

3. **Vaccine update**- Total number of children aged 12-17 years old who have had one COVID vaccine is 14,618 (56.3%) and those who have received two vaccines and are fully vaccinated is 12,155 (46.8%).

The last vaccine clinic held at Elko Middle School was well attended. Another event will be held at Brookland Middle School 8/18/2021 2:00 pm-4:00 pm.

4. **Updates to COVID CDC guidance and Governors orders**- HCPS sent out messaging to students, family and staffing last week that strongly suggests masks be worn. This messaging needs to go to non-HCPS personnel as well, so everyone knows what is being recommended. A question was asked about increasing COVID case numbers and if universal masking would be required. This would be difficult as students will be expected to unmask to eat in cafeteria and participate in classes such as band. Social distancing requirements and other prevention methods will be upheld in all buildings with students. Some parents have expressed that HCPS should be following CDC guidance when it comes to wearing of masks. HCPS is following this guidance in strongly recommending that masks be worn by everyone.

5. Review of Preparedness-

- **Staffing- School Health:** There are still 5 open RN/LPN positions open for school year 2021-2022 There are 31 clinic aide positions open for next school year. **Other school positions:** HVA is trying to get fully staffed. There is a wait list of students. Those students who have medical needs are considered first for attendance.

- **Contact Tracing-** As of 8/1/2021 contact tracing will move back to HCPS School Health Services. School health will collaborate with the RHHD at least 3 times a week and more if needed. The red cap form was shut off last week and the HCPS google forms were reopened today. The RHHD has not been able to work cases, so this is the reason for the change. Specifically, there was a positive COVID case reported to the health department via our previous process and ended up an outbreak due to the case not being worked. Currently there are several COVID cases that have been reported and HCPS SHS will work those cases. Concerns were brought forward about whether HCPS School Health Services can continue contact tracing for the school year with the amount of support that will be needed for students, specifically for students with chronic conditions. There are many new school nurses who need training and the staff that did contact tracing last year will need to provide that training to the school nurses. Dr. Viray stated that the RHHD is in the process of reframing and should be able to help once that is complete. She suggested that school nurses be a part of the process. Concerns about the feasibility of this with the volume of work that school nurses see daily. For HCPS to continue to contact trace during the school year, a minimum of 4 employees will need to be hired. It will take about 6 weeks to get these employees hired and trained once hired.

Guidance for contact tracing has changed. If students are further than 3 feet apart and fully masked, then they are not considered an exposure if one of them tests positive for COVID. This is only for children and does not include guidance for adults. Adult guidance continues to be closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more regardless of mask wearing is considered an exposure. If someone is fully vaccinated and exposed, they should wear a mask for 14 days and have a COVID test at 3-5 days after exposure or until COVID results are negative.

COVID screening- the COVID screening forms will be updated and sent out again this year for all students and staff. Robin will update and send to Beth.

Screening of visitors should take place with questions placed on the door and a review of the questions before being allowed inside. The taking of temperatures will no longer be necessary per guidance from the RHHD.

Signs for social distancing have been removed but reminder signs for social distancing will go above the water fountains along with verbal reminders from staff.

6. Next Steps –

Sports- High school team practices started on 7/29/2021. There are currently 4 positive COVID cases that have been identified.

Volunteer guidelines- Volunteer activities will drop back to tier 2. No student contacts.

Additional items for discussion-

Use of buildings- buildings will remain open for the public to use if students are not in the building at the same time as the outside agency is using it. Dr. Viray stated that ventilation and routine cleaning should be factors considered with this decision. Schools are already well ventilated and cleaned using protocols. Recommendation to follow Henrico County phasing for the opening and closing of buildings for consistency. Contact tracing would not be the responsibility of HCPS is a case or exposure were to occur during the use of the building.

Social/Emotional health should be considered when it comes to the impacts of wearing or not wearing masks. Bullying is not tolerated and would be handled like any other discipline situation if someone reports that they were bullied because of wearing or not wearing a mask.

The Division Leadership Team will be presented with outcomes of discussions by the health committee. One area that is needed is consistent communication to parents and staff. There are outreach workers for both Henrico Health Department and Henrico County that may be able to assist with sharing information on COVID related matters. A checklist of reminders and other important information will be shared with teachers and other staff, so messaging is consistent and up to date.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 8/9/2021. Meetings will be held weekly.