

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

10/11/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented. Using the updated VDH metric dash board <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/> *The VDH website has not updated data for this week so the most current data is as follows – 177.4 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests data is 4.6 % which is in the moderate range.
3. **COVID Vaccine update**- Data was updated on 10/10/2021. Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 62.3%. Those who are 18 years old and over is 70.8 %. This has again increased slightly from last week.

COVID vaccines for children aged 5-11 years old is closer to being approved. Pfizer has applied for the EUA for this age group. In anticipation of this approval in the next several weeks, RHHD is continuing to prepare for the mass vaccination clinics to be held on Saturdays at Elko and Fairfield Middle Schools. The capacity for immunizations at each event is 500 for Elko and 350 for Fairfield. LaWanda Dunn states that they will need at least a week for planning and training prior to the events starting. November 6 or 13 are the dates that are being planned for the start of these clinics. The estimate is that about 20% of the total population for this age will get the vaccine when it comes available. There are approximately 24,000 HCPS students aged 5-11 years old. The Henrico Community Vaccination Center being held at RIR will also be able to provide COVID immunizations to children when approved. Pediatricians and other health care providers will have access to the vaccine, but the pharmacies may lag in getting the supply for the younger age group.

Other childhood immunizations- VCU CHOR has agreed to host immunization only clinics in October to help with the need for students to receive school required vaccinations. RHHD is also partnering with HCPS to look at other options for immunization clinics to start next summer. The meeting with HealthHeroUSA is this week.

4. **Updates to COVID CDC guidance and Governors orders**- No new executive orders have been announced.

5. Review of Preparedness-

- **Staffing- School Health:** There are currently 2 RN and 1 LPN positions open. There are 19-20 clinic aide positions open for next school year. **Other school positions-** no updates given

- **Facilities-** Schools need to make sure that they are utilizing PPE especially masks and wipes correctly. The wipes are being used to wipe down desks. In middle and high schools this means that a lot of wipes are being used. Desks are being wiped with each class change.

- **Contact Tracing-** Meetings were held last week with RHHD, school nurses and principals. The new process with schools submitting Red Caps and providing return letters is starting today. There will continue to be collaboration between all these groups as needed. Community exposures will continue to be worked by SHS contact tracing staff with the school nurses working them as needed. The HCPS COVID dashboard is being updated each week. Currently there have been 671 positive COVID cases and 3400 exposures total this school year. There are 16 outbreaks currently ongoing with 1 additional one reported this past weekend. This has decreased slightly over the past few weeks.

Volunteer guidelines- no updates

Visitor guidelines- no updates

Other-

Illness guidance- no changes. Community transmission continues to be high, so the 10-day illness letter is in effect. A note from a health care provider and/or a negative COVID test with symptoms resolved for at least 24 hours will allow the student/staff back to instruction sooner than the 10 days.

COVID testing- The at home diagnostic testing kits have arrived. A process and easy to follow directions are being created for the distribution of these kits. The focus will be on close contacts in areas with outbreaks and students with COVID like symptoms getting these kits as need arises.

Winter sports will be the focus of the VIISTA in school COVID screening testing program. This will include both middle and high school athletes along with the coaches and athletic trainers. If fully vaccinated, then the person can opt out of the testing.

School Visits- Chtaura Jackson and Robin Gilbert will conduct visits to two schools a week. The focus will be on how preventative measures are being utilized and providing suggestions and feedback as needed. The visits will start this week.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 10/18/2021.