

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

10/18/2021

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 most current data as of 10/18/2021 is as follows – 133.6 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests is 5.0 % which is in the same as last week.
3. **COVID Vaccine update**- Data was updated on 10/18/2021. Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 63.2%. Those who are 18 years old and over is 71.6 %. This has again increased slightly from last week.

Dr. Viray gave an update on COVID boosters and COVID vaccines for children ages 5-11.

COVID vaccines for children aged 5-11 years old is closer to being approved. 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 dosing for Pfizer is smaller than adult dosing. This will be considered a different vaccine and not interchangeable with the adult Pfizer vaccine. This may cause some supply issues with VDH needing to redistribute to clinics in the beginning. This will be short term only.

The FDA Advisory Committee has reviewed the data on Moderna boosters, and the recommendation will be identical to Pfizer once announced. The Janssen (J & J) data has also been reviewed and a second dose vs booster may be recommended at least 2 months after the first dose. Authorization is still pending for these.

RIR continues to host vaccine clinics for primary and booster doses of COVID vaccines. They will also be able to provide for children when approved.

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 provide an immunization event on 10/19/2021. HCPS filled 50 appointments. There are a lot of students who still need vaccines to be compliant with school entry. Some parents have expressed that they were unaware of the requirements. There was discussion about the best way to communicate with families about the continued need. A suggestion was made to make sure principals are giving continued messages as well as provide

reminders on colored paper. There has been an extension of the grace period to get needed immunizations until January.

Flu Vaccine clinics are being scheduled in each school and at HCPS Central Office. HCPS is once again partnering with IVNA to provide these.

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. School Health Services has a few nurses out or going out on FMLA. SHS also has had several call ins due to illness and family illness. This has provided a challenge to staff each clinic with a licensed nurse. SHS is trying to provide coverage by pulling nurses at schools where two are already staffed. **Other school positions-** no updates given

-**Facilities-** The BinaxNOW COVID test kits are being distributed to all schools this week. The second shipment of 1000 has already been delivered to the warehouse.

-**PPE-** Some students are not coming to school with their masks. This has caused the supply of disposable ones to be used more frequently. Schools are asked to work with families to see why students are not coming to school with their supplied cloth masks and to assist with any barriers. The COVID liaisons were asked to provide education to families about the importance of bringing a mask to school each day.

- **Contact Tracing-** The new process for schools to enter positive COVID cases and any school related exposures directly to RHHD Red Cap has started and is working well. 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. Last week there were 48 + cases in elementary, 22+ cases in middle and 20+ in high schools. There was one reported COVID positive case outside of schools. There have been a few new outbreaks reported at schools. The new process of reporting and updating cases on the COVID dashboard is working well.

**There has been updated guidance from CDC/VDH/RHHD that anyone who is fully vaccinated and considered a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Those individuals should be tested 5-7 days after the exposure. This is a change from the previously stated 3-5 days recommended testing.

Volunteer guidelines- no updates

Visitor guidelines- no updates

Other-

Illness guidance- 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. If fully vaccinated, then the person can opt out of the testing. Grant funds will be utilized to hire staff to support the coordination of these tests.

School Visits- Chtaura Jackson and Karen Criswell conducted site visits at Arthur Ashe Elementary and Glen Allen Elementary last week. Both schools are doing a good job with prevention measures. Glen Allen has implemented some additional measures such as providing tape on the floor to mark where desks should be located and round tables in the cafeteria. It was also noted that when teachers model good mask wearing the students also model this no matter how young. Site visits will continue this week with two middle schools.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 10/25/2021.