

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

10/25/2021

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 10/25/2021 is as follows – 128.2 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests is 4.9 %. Both are down slightly from the week before.
3. **COVID Vaccine update**- Data was updated on 10/24/2021. Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 63.6 %. Those who are 18 years old and over is 71.9 %. This has again increased slightly from last week.

COVID vaccines for children aged 5-11 years old is closer to being approved. The FDA will be meeting this week to discuss approval of the Pfizer vaccine for children. Research from Pfizer lists the vaccine as 90.7 % effective in children aged 5-11 years old.

The FDA and CDC has approved COVID boosters for both Pfizer and Moderna for certain groups. The Janssen (J & J) data has also been reviewed and a booster has been recommended at least 2 months after the first dose. Approval has also been granted for the mixing of COVID vaccines for boosters.

RIR continues to host vaccine clinics for primary and booster doses of COVID vaccines.

Other childhood immunizations- An Immunization clinic was held last week at the Eastern Henrico Health Department. There are a lot of students who still need vaccines to be compliant with school entry. A reminder was sent to the school nurses about letting parents know if their student needs additional vaccines to be compliant.

Flu Vaccine clinics are being scheduled in each school and at HCPS Central Office. HCPS is once again partnering with IVNA to provide these. The Central Office flu vaccine clinic was well attended.

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 12 clinic aide positions still open. **Other school positions-** no updates given

-**Facilities-** The BinaxNOW COVID test kits have been distributed to all schools. More test kits will be ordered as needed.

-**PPE-** Students coming to school without a mask continues to be a problem and supplies are being used.

- **Contact Tracing-** The new process for schools to enter positive COVID cases and any school related exposures directly to RHHH 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. There have been a few new outbreaks reported at schools in the past 2 weeks.

**There has been updated guidance from CDC/VDH/RHHH 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.

An email has been sent out to staff asking about COVID vaccination status. If an employee chooses to upload their COVID vaccine information they can do so in the Oracle system, so it is secure. AstraZeneca is not an FDA approved vaccine in the United States and thus anyone having received this is not considered fully vaccinated.

Volunteer and 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. The 10-day letter has been translated and sent out to school nurses.

COVID testing- The at home diagnostic testing kits are being handed out.

HCPS has been paired with a vendor for the VIISTA COVID testing program. A meeting was held with the vendor and HCPS and a system is being put in place to move forward with testing winter athletes in middle and high schools. The timeline to start testing has been pushed back until after try outs have concluded.

School Visits. Site visits will continue this week with two middle schools.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 11/1/2021.