

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

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 – 203.1 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests data is 5.2 %. The CDC dashboard for Henrico week of 9/26/2021- 10/2/2021 which uses a 7-day metric currently states 167.16 cases per 100,000 and the percent positive is at 5.76%.
3. **Vaccine update**- Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 61.5%. Those who are 18 years old and over is 70.4%. This has increased slightly from last week.

No official update on vaccination approval for children ages 5-12 years old.

COVID-19 Boosters: The FDA has authorized a booster dose of Pfizer (only) COVID-19 vaccine for certain populations. This does include teachers.

The RHHD is setting up booster appointments for those who qualify for the booster dose of Pfizer.

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 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. Instead of giving a disposable mask to a student every day, schools need to try and find out if they need new cloth ones instead.

- **Contact Tracing** Over the next week there will be a change in the reporting of positive COVID cases. This will shift to the schools to establish a point of contact to enter cases in RHHH Red Cap. This will decrease the turnaround time. The new procedures including letters with return dates is being created and in the process of review. Once all information is gathered, meetings and education sessions will be conducted so everyone is aware. There have been 13-17 outbreaks within the schools that Chtaura Jackson and Robin Gilbert are working on gathering information.

Case Data:

New Cases Week Ending 10/1

Positives 108

Exposures 1005

Total Cases for SY

Positives 662

Exposures 3462

Outbreaks: 17 with 13 active

Athletics- A few cases have been noted with athletics.

Volunteer guidelines- no updates

Visitor guidelines- no updates

Other-

Illness guidance- The change that was communicated last week about accepting a negative COVID test has been implemented. A negative COVID test will also be accepted to return to school prior to the 10 days outlined in our current protocol during times of high COVID transmission. The student/staff member must be 24 hours fever and symptom free before return to school/work. This is the same as the HCPS illness policy pre COVID.

Childhood immunizations- Robin is working with LaWanda Dunn on obtaining needed immunization appointments for students via RHHH. The grace period for obtaining immunizations is coming up quickly with many appointments still not able to be scheduled until November and December. Dr. Teigen will take the recommendation back to the Division Leadership Team to extend the grace period for students to obtain the needed immunizations until January. LaWanda Dunn is also looking into a program that may be provided next summer to help with immunization appointments before the school year starts.

COVID testing- The at home testing kits that were ordered have arrived. A process will be created for the distribution of these kits. These would be for symptomatic individuals and include a telehealth visit at home during the testing process. There was a discussion about what programs HCPS would implement first for the VIISTA COVID screening tests. If winter athletics are being considered, then a procedure will need to be in place soon. To do the testing, HCPS will need to submit the request to VDH so that a group to assist can be assigned. There may be a phased approach to start with VHSL programs and may expand to elementary students. This recommendation will need to be brought to Dr. Cashwell and the DLT soon for approval. Please see the following information about testing and sports from the VDH

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/sports/>

There was also discussion about vaccines being required for sports and other extracurricular activities. No decision or recommendation was made for this.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 10/11/2021. RHHD and VDH partners have this day off and may not attend the meeting.