

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

11/1/2021

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 11/1/2021 is as follows – 90.08 cases per 100,000 which is in the substantial category. The percentage of positive tests is 4.2%. Both are down from the week before.
3. **COVID Vaccine update**- Data was updated on 10/31/2021. Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 64.1 %. Those who are 18 years old and over is 72.3 %. This has again increased slightly from last week.

COVID vaccines for children aged 5-11 years old is closer to being approved. The FDA has approved the Pfizer vaccine for children. The ACIP meeting is on 11/2/2021 and this is the last step of approval.

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.

RHHD is planning to host several COVID vaccine clinics for the 5–11-year-old population in the school community once approved. There has also been discussion about the possibility of bringing COVID vaccine clinics inside school during the school day. This is still in the planning phases and no decision has been made at this time.

Other childhood immunizations- The Immunization clinic held at the Eastern Henrico Health Department went well. There were about 50 appointments that day. There are a lot of students who still need vaccines to be compliant with school entry. Robin will send the updated numbers of those still needing vaccines to LaWanda Dunn. There has been an increase in no show rates at recent clinics. The Henrico Health Department appointment availability is now into January. LaWanda stated that there is some availability at the Richmond Health clinic in November. This information will be sent to the nurses. The grace period for all students to obtain vaccines to meet school requirements has been extended to January 3, 2022.

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 and another one has been scheduled for November 4, 2021.

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 3 RN and 1 LPN positions open. There have been a lot of illness and FMLA which has caused many absences in school health. **Other school positions-** no updates given

-**Facilities-** no updates

-**PPE-** Students coming to school without a mask continues to be a problem. An order has been placed for additional cloth masks, disposable masks, and wipes.

- **Contact Tracing-** The new process for schools to enter positive COVID cases and any school related exposures directly to RHHD Red Cap continues and appears to be working well. The HCPS contract tracing team is caught up on working community exposures and are working cases immediately as they come in.

An email has been sent out to staff asking about COVID vaccination status. At this point, 10% of employees have uploaded their vaccination. Access to this information will be limited to supervisors. A process for this identification is being drafted.

Volunteer and Visitor guidelines- With community transmission in the substantial category, volunteer activities have moved into level 2, but visitor remains at level 1.

Other-

Illness guidance- Currently, the 10-day letter is still in effect. With case counts declining, the illness guidance may change to 24 hours. The threshold for this is less than 50 cases per 100,000.

COVID testing- The at home diagnostic testing kits are being handed out. This is going well with a few issues that have brought questions to the VDH testing coordinator to address.

HCPS has been paired with Aegis for the VIISTA COVID testing program. The plan is to test student athletes weekly who are participating in winter sports. If students are fully vaccinated, then they can opt out of the testing. The current timeline for the screening testing to start has been pushed back to November 15, 2021, for high schools and middle schools to start the week after.

There have been a few questions from principals and parents about the screening testing. One question is about whether other activities such as choral and theatre will be included in the screening testing. There was another question about whether the tests are PCR vs. saliva tests.

School Visits. - Visits to Fairfield Middle School and Elko Middle School this past week, identified that most students were wearing face masks appropriately. At both schools, there were a few adults seen without face coverings. As in other visits when adults are not wearing their masks, students are more likely to not wear their masks properly. Spacing is close in classrooms and lunchrooms which may lead to additional students being quarantined if a student is COVID positive. Contact tracing on busses also presents an issue. Isolation rooms in both schools are nicely spaced but staff to man these rooms can present a challenge with not enough clinic staff.

Re-education of students and staff about preventative measures is recommended. Beth Teigen will speak with the DLT and directors about this.

Having a dedicated PHI for Henrico Schools is possible. Richmond City has one and it has proven beneficial to the school staff especially the school nurses.

Other- Messaging about preventative practices to protect against acquiring COVID during the holiday season is set to go out.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 11/8/2021.