

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

11/15/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was not available during the meeting but the CDC metrics were discussed. After the meeting, and using the updated VDH metric dash board <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/> The data as of 11/15/2021 is as follows – 73.60 cases per 100,000 which is in the substantial category. The percentage of positive tests is up to 4.9.
3. **COVID Vaccine update**- Data was updated on 11/14/2021. Total number of children ages 5-11 years old with one dose of COVID vaccine is 10.2 %. Total number of vaccinated is now being measured for 5-17 years old. Those in that age category who are fully vaccinated is 30.9 %. Those who are 18 years old and over who are fully vaccinated is up to 73%.

RHHD is planning to host several COVID vaccine clinics for the 5–11-year-old population in the school community. An event was held this past Saturday at Fairfield Middle with 200 COVID vaccines administered. In addition to children being vaccinated, a few older children and adults were also given vaccines. Elko Middle will be hosting clinics on 11/20/2021 and 12/11/2021. The event at Elko is not full right now. Information about these events is being disseminated by weekly emails to all parents in addition to being added to the Elementary and Middle School web pages.

Other childhood immunizations- Other clinics may be set up if needed.

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 4 RN and 2 LPN positions open. In addition, 13 positions are being added to assist with the ViSSTA testing program. These positions have not been hired yet. **Other school positions**- There are some open positions.

-**Facilities**- No new updates.

-**PPE**- Students who are forgetting their masks thus needing to get one when they arrive on the bus or to school continues to be an issue. A centralized message should go to families to remind them about students needing to bring a mask with them to school every day.

- **Contact Tracing**- The partnership between RHHD and HCPS is working well.

-**Doli**- Discussion about the directive that employers must follow about having either employees vaccinated or providing a negative COVID test is on hold. HCPS is waiting for more information.

Volunteer and Visitor guidelines- With community transmission in the substantial category, volunteer activities are now in tier 2 and visitor activities remain in tier 1.

The health committee recommendation that concession sales be allowed at the winter athletic events was taken to DLT. They approved it but recommend that it be done in such a way that minimizes the amount of time and congestion that is spent in the concessions area.

There was also a discussion about large posters being needed to put up at athletic events to remind of masking and social distancing. These signs are in the folder on the google doc as well as some being obtained from the ACE center printing department.

Eileen Cox, Director of Communications states that her team is looking at providing information on best practices for preventing COVID during the holidays and what to do to be good spectators for sports and other activities. They are providing information in the Friday Binder information. They are also working on a video with this information.

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. Dr. Viray asked the committee to review the trends when making decisions about the illness policy. If the number falls to this category, guidelines should be followed as presented to families and staff.

COVID testing- The at home diagnostic testing kits continue to be handed out.

HCPS has been paired with Aegis for the ViSSTA COVID testing program. Student athletes who are participating in winter sports are participating. If students are fully vaccinated, then they can opt out of the testing. The first testing was conducted today starting with the high schools and the plan continues for middle schools to start on November 29, 2021.

School Visits - Visits to Greenwood Elementary School and Lakeside Elementary School were conducted this past week by Chtaura Jackson and Karen Criswell. The elementary directors were invited but did not attend the visit. Plans were made to include them on other visits. During the visit most students and staff were wearing face masks appropriately. Spacing is close in classrooms. One staff member in each school was observed teaching without a mask on. There was also a discussion with the principals at each site with one expressing frustrated with quarantine guidelines and the other finding that students ages 5-11 years old are getting vaccinated. Contact tracing on busses is being conducted in at least one of the schools with the nurse giving a debriefing. The nurse was not present at one school and a concern was

expressed about the aide and knowledge of procedures. This has been addressed with the school and they are working on it. Isolation rooms in both schools are adequate.

The site visits will continue, and the School Directors will be invited to attend each week.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 11/15/2021.