

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

11/29/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed.

2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented to the committee.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/>

The data as of 11/29/2021 is as follows- 125.4 cases per 100,000 which is in the substantial category. The percentage of positive tests is up to 6.4%. Both are increased from last week. A spike in cases is expected after the Thanksgiving holiday and may stay in the high category for a while according to Chtaura Jackson.

3. **COVID Vaccine update**- Data was updated on 11/28/2021. There are a total of 80 children ages 5-11 years old who are now fully vaccinated. Total number of vaccinated is now being measured for 5-17 years old. Those in that age category who are fully vaccinated is 31.4 %. Those who are 18 years old and over who are fully vaccinated is up to 73.9%. A plan has not been established for booster doses for those under 18 years old.

RHHD continues to host several COVID vaccine clinics for the 5–11-year-old population in the school community. 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. RHHD is also looking to partner with HCPS to hold COVID vaccine clinics in a few elementary schools on 12/17/2021 and again on 1/7/2022.

Other childhood immunizations- Other There continues to be students who are not compliant with school immunizations. Currently the plan is to exclude on 1/3/2022 if students do not either have the needed immunization or an appointment card for the immunization. Other school districts are currently looking at excluding students who do not have the necessary immunizations. DLT will review further before making any changes to the exclusion.

4. **Updates to COVID CDC guidance and Governors orders**- No new executive orders have been announced.

Travel- With the Omicron new COVID variant, there was a question about whether guidance has changed for those traveling to and from United States. At this time there is no new guidance other than what is currently recommended by the Federal Government. Chtaura provided the following links for guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/pdf/requirements-travel-to-us-by-air-quick-reference-p.pdf>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/get-the-latest-guidance/travel-to-areas-with-widespread-ongoing-community-spread/>

5. Review of Preparedness-

- **Staffing- School Health:** There are currently 3 RN and 1 LPN positions open. In addition, 13 positions are being added to assist with the VISSTA testing program. These positions have not been hired yet. There are no substitute nurses who are not already working. When nurses call in or have to isolate/quarantine, there is no one in the clinic and clinic backups are having to manage the medical needs of the students. **Other school positions-** no report

-**Facilities-** Cleaning continues as before. The COVID-19 BinaxNOW kits are limited in stock, and schools are requesting more. There is a total of 600 currently. Not sure when the next shipment will come in and if there will be enough for the athlete testing over the Winter Break.

-**PPE-** no updates. Information about what is needed about what cleaning is sufficient will be sent by James Upshaw. This is to ease the burden of wipes being used frequently. There was a discussion about whether carpet or cloth toys should be used. The answer is not if there is a chance that secretions from the mouth will be on it.

- **Contact Tracing-** The partnership between RHHD and HCPS is working well. There has been an increase in cases over the weekend. James has about contact tracing during Winter Break. This is TBD.

-**Doli-** No updates

Volunteer and Visitor guidelines- Both are in the Tier 1 category. Cortney will send out this guidance to schools. Coaches who are volunteers and the Teachers for Tomorrow program volunteers are allowed. There has been some concern with masking during athletic events. Mark will follow up with John Carroll to make sure that messaging goes out to athletic directors and coaches. There are also no changes to the concession sales currently. There should be traffic control and social distancing around concession areas.

Other-

Illness guidance- Currently, the 10-day letter is still in effect.

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

Athlete Testing Program- This is week 3 for high schools and the start of week 1 for middle schools. There have been some adjustments and clarifying of procedures for these testing events with Aegis.

School Visits – no visits took place last week.

Comments on the in-person public plan- - Dr. Teigen reviewed responses from the public comment page on in-person learning. Most of the common comments were about masking. Some agreed with masking, and some did not.

Next meeting will take place on Monday 12/6/2021.