

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE Meeting Notes

2/1/2021

1. **Welcome-** Committee members were welcomed
2. **Review of Data-** Chtaura Jackson, VDH Epidemiologist went over the latest school metrics. As of 2/1/2021- data from the VDH School Metric dashboard, Henrico is at 747.4 cases per 100,000 (highest level) and positivity 11% (highest level). This is a slight decrease from the week before. VDH is starting to see a steady decline from the high number of COVID positive cases related to the holidays. She also went over the new variants of COVID 19. The same prevention strategies that are being used now, such as wearing of face coverings/masks and social distancing, are still encouraged to prevent transmission of these variant strains. There is still more information and data needed to truly understand how these variants may change the recommendations. Although it has been in the news that using two masks may help, it is not currently a recommendation from VDH or CDC. Committee decided not to change the recommendation for face coverings unless recommended by the CDC.

www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

School Dashboards

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/outbreaks-in-education-settings/>

3. MIS-C

New studies have shown a low-risk of Covid-19 and spread in schools, including the limited in-school transmission of Covid-19 and the few coronavirus-associated MIS-C cases in children. MIS-C is very rare; however, if a child gets it, it can be very dangerous. With symptoms from MIS-C usually developing within two-four weeks of exposure. Unfortunately, we still do not know why a small fraction of children develop MIS-C, while other children with Covid-19 recover without problems. Studies have shown that children who develop MIS-C tend to be those

within Elementary age children more so than others. One thing that could help is ensuring that all parents with children who fall within 2-15 years of age are aware of symptoms associated with MIS-C.

4. COVID Vaccine- HCPS employees along with other localities have received vaccines over the past two weeks and will continue this week if the supply of vaccine arrives tomorrow as scheduled. This will complete the process for first vaccinations for those that signed up. HCPS also participated in the community vaccination events this past weekend where 4800 vaccinations were given.

4. VDH/VDOE New Recommendations

- Impact on re-opening timeline

4. Review of Preparedness for Re-opening

- PPE – N95 update- over 250 employees have been fit tested. There will be a fit testing held each week moving forward for any new employees.

- Staffing – half of the clinic aides needed have been hired for the elementary schools.

- Contact Tracing- from 1-14-2021 to 1-27-2021 there were 355 forms being processed. The contact team is running about 5 days behind on forms but continues to prioritize positive cases. Staffing is improving with the hiring of 2 additional nurses, one PREP employee and other HCPS nurses being rotated into the office to help.

5. Sports Update- there is currently a possible positive case associated with a student who is a member of a football team. There may be exposures related to this within the team. Contact tracing will work the case and make recommendations as needed.

6. Committee Recommendations- All members of the committee present at the meeting recommended that staff come back to buildings before students, that it is best to stagger start dates for PK-2 then 3rd- 5th and then 6th and 9th before 7th- 8th and 10th-12th. The committee members discussed confidence in the current mitigation strategies. The committee also discussed vaccination of staff and whether it would be best to complete the vaccine series for all employees or bring everyone back sooner after everyone has had one vaccine. There is uncertainty around the availability of vaccines, but the intention is to complete the series for all employees as supplies are available.

7. Next Steps – School Board to meet on 1/4/2021 to make decisions about bringing students back into school for face to face instruction.

VDH COVID – School K-12

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/schools-workplaces-community-locations/k-12-education/>

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/09/Noncritical-Infrastructure-Worker-Algorithm.pdf>