

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

4/19/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented by Chtaura Jackson. Using the new CDC guidance for school metrics the data for the week is as follows; total number of new cases per 100,000 is at 131.5 which is in the high category. The percent positivity of new cases is currently 7.0%. HCPS will continue to use the mitigating measures (now called preventative interventions) currently in place.

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

3. **COVID Vaccine update:** HCPS is sending messaging on social media about who is now eligible for the COVID vaccine, specifically age 16 and up. HCPS would like to partner with VDH or pharmacies to assist with vaccination efforts for students. There will be no specific events for adolescents, they will need to obtain appointments for general vaccination events. There have been some children under the age of 16 who have been able to sign up for a vaccine even though the vaccine has not been approved for that age group. Dr. Viray states that VDH is aware of this and it is a software issue with the appointment scheduler and may not be fixed right away.

4. **Review of Preparedness for Re-opening**

- **Staffing**- continuing to hire clinic aides. There are currently two open nurse positions with two more due to retirements at the end of the school year. Summer staffing was discussed. There will need to be a licensed nurse and a clinic aide for each site to allow for staffing of the health isolation room. Dr. Viray indicated the use of clinic aides for health isolation rooms will be a need for next school year.

- **Contact Tracing**- Contact tracing continues to be busy. Many forms were submitted and worked last week. The contact tracing team will be getting additional help soon. Three additional employees have been hired and three nurses that help at the COVID vaccine events

will come over and assist contact tracing when they are not working at the raceway. There has been a change in the process for employees and students who have been vaccinated if they are identified as an exposure. If the employee volunteers that they have been vaccinated, then the contact tracing team can verify that they are considered fully vaccinated (2 weeks post vaccine). For students, the school nurse can assist. If the person has been vetted for symptoms following the CDC guidance, they may be allowed back into the school setting.

-Ill staff and students- if a student is out with an illness, they are eligible to continue their learning virtually while they are out.

5. Next Steps –

COVID testing of students/staff- Currently there is a pilot COVID testing program from VDH/VDOE that includes COVID testing within the school environment. This pilot expires in July as the testing kits expire then. There will be a larger program that will be piloted next fall. Robin is attending meetings about this program. More information to come.

Sports update: The middle school sports season has started. Chtaura asked about the preventive measures being followed for these sports teams. Robin indicated that the middle schools are doing better as they have learned from the high school sports teams. Competitions for States/Nationals are being allowed. Students and staff must follow the health plan preventative measures such as the wearing of face coverings and social distancing. Any other requirements such as COVID testing will also be followed if the sponsoring agency requests this.

Summer programs- Robin raised a question about contact tracing for the summer. Currently the nurses working contact tracing do not work during the summer.

Other:

Preventative measures- Chtaura stated that she recently learned of a school division in Chesapeake that has audit teams for schools with increased cases to make sure that all preventative measures are in place. Cortney stated that HCPS is doing COVID team walk throughs currently. Cortney will get with Robin to increase these in schools that have higher COVID cases to make sure that all preventative measures are in place.

Transition forms are being submitted for Senior picnics and one form has been submitted for prom at Varina High School that is well thought out using the guidelines in place.

Volunteer guidelines have been written using a tiered approach. Discussion about whether to allow tier 2 activities which allow volunteers inside but restricted to activities that can be performed alone such as copying. Beth Teigen reported that staff fill rate has increased recently. Dr. Viray stated that any changes to process should be made with local impacts in

mind such as absenteeism and enrollment. The COVID task force will review the volunteer guidelines and make recommendations.

Playground- HCPS leadership has stated that playground equipment can be used, and volunteers can assist with monitoring. Ms. Atkins expressed that all schools should have equal access. Beth stated that the elementary directors will work with any school who states that this is an issue. Playgrounds need to be cleaned according to regular cleaning guidelines instead of COVID cleaning guidelines. This may help ensure access due to staff not needing to clean as often. Dr. Viray states that CDC has stated that fomite transmission is small. Cohorts can increase to include students from the same class if social distancing can be maintained.

Field day- guidance is going out to all PE teachers and school leaders about having field day activities.

Next meeting will take place on 4/26/2021.

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>