

Henrico County Public Schools

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

4/26/2021

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 138.5 which is in the high category. This is up slightly from last week. The percent positivity of new cases is currently 5.2%. 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:** The Richmond/Henrico Health districts now have two ways for residents to schedule COVID vaccine appointments. The first is to go to vax.rchd.com and sign up; the second is to call (804) 205-3501 Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 pm. School nurses can assist families with the resources to schedule vaccines as needed. The events at the raceway are continuing. Phone consent for minors who are of the age to receive the Pfizer vaccine are being done when a parent is not present. A community walk up event was held on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

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

- **Staffing**- Clinic aides are continuing to be hired. There are currently two open nurse positions with two more due to retirements at the end of the school year. Education staff have seen higher fill rates for staff out recently.

- **Contact Tracing**- fewer cases were reported last week. Student cases continue to be most cases. Transportation continues to see the highest exposures due to not being able to social distance. Bus drivers will be added to school emails for positive cases when it is a school that they serve. The contact tracing team will be going back to identify any employee cases that may have acquired as work environment transmission. More follow up will be needed for these cases.

5. Next Steps –

COVID testing of students/staff- Robin will bring back to the committee in two weeks, information about screening testing for athletes.

Sports update: no new updates, going well.

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

Transition forms are being submitted for Senior picnics and proms. A transition form will need to be filled out for graduation.

Volunteer guidelines- Discussion about the three tiers and how the same metrics for schools will decide which tier is allowed. High transmission will indicate Tier 1 which includes only activities that occur outside. Substantial transmission will indicate Tier 2 activities which include allowing volunteers inside but not in classrooms or near students. Moderate transmission will indicate Tier 3 activities which allow volunteer in all areas. All preventative measures such as social distancing, face coverings and hand washing will still apply. Discussion about whether to open the tiers to volunteers who have had the COVID vaccine. The committee will add this to the agenda for next week's meeting to discuss before making a recommendation to the Division Leadership Team.

Summer programs- meeting to take place this week about the needs of the summer programs. Contact tracing will need to be supported by the health department as the contact tracing staff working during the school year are off for the summer. Chtaura stated that there is new guidance from the CDC as it pertains to summer camps. Students who attend summer programs may attend summer camps elsewhere so contact tracing may need to be completed for both. Both the Henrico Education Foundation and YMCA plan to use the school buildings for summer programs as they have been doing.

Graduation- graduations will be held at the Richmond Raceway. The plan is to have families seated in small groups distanced from other families. A transition form will need to be completed to make sure that all prevention measures are planned. If there is a positive COVID case identified from a graduation, then the HHD will need to do contact tracing.

Additional items for discussion-

There has been a question about why seating charts/rosters must be provided for events other than athletic events. Athletic events do not have to submit seating charts/rosters for spectators. Dr. Viray stated that if the event can state that the prevention measures are enforced at an event then there is no need for contact tracing.

The LAMPS teachers have asked why they are being asked to proctor testing but in person teaching of these classes has not been allowed. The question will be addressed by DLT.

Next meeting will take place on 5/3/2021.

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>