

# Henrico County Public Schools

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

9/13/2021

1. **Welcome** – committee members who were present were welcomed.
2. **Review of Data**- Data was reviewed and presented. Using the updated VDH metric dash board <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/key-measures/pandemic-metrics/school-metrics/> the current data is as follows – 232 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests data is 7.9 %. This is a decrease from last week.
3. **Vaccine update**- This has not changed from 9/7/2021 data which is as follows. Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 56 %. Those who are 18 years old and over is 68.2%.

No update on vaccination approval for children ages 5-12 years old.

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 still 3 RN/LPN positions open for school year 2021-2022. Coverage for the clinics with open positions has been established. There are 19 clinic aide positions open for next school year. This is due to some recent resignations. Two contact tracers have been hired and will be going through HR orientation this week. **Other school positions**- no updates given

-**Facilities**- All air scrubbers are in school cafeterias. Performing arts such as chorus and band have asked for air scrubbers to be placed in their classrooms. There was discussion about these activities being known for increased transmission. With the use of masks and other preventative measures, the risk should not be increased. Another 100-150 units would need to be purchased. It also may add a false sense of security and other preventative measures may be lessened if this occurs. Another suggestion is to have these classes in larger spaces such as auditoriums. There also has been a lot of requests to donate air scrubbers/filters. Not doing this right now due to needing professional grade equipment.

- **Contact Tracing**- New guidelines for schools have come out. Those guidelines include shortening quarantine from 14 days to 10 days from exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID 19. School personnel need to quickly identify close contacts using the 3 or 6-foot rule. Those that are adequately immunized and asymptomatic after an exposure should be

allowed to return to work/class. Dr. Viray shared that these new guidelines were put into place as parents may not have resources to stay home and away from work for the 14-day quarantine. Clear messaging about this needs to be communicated. Bus seating charts also need to be maintained so entire busses are not quarantined unnecessarily.

To date: there have been 129 positive cases, with 41 of those cases have been sent to the RHHD. Since 8/26/2021 there have been 251 exposures. 150 community exposures have been worked with HCPS contact tracing with 110 waiting to be worked in the office. There have been 4 outbreaks since the start of teacher work week. The community dashboard needs to be updated. There is a process in place for this. The HCPS School Board has asked for the dashboard to include weekly counts for the total number of COVID cases and exposures. HCPS School Health Services is currently doing all contact tracing for exposures and sending all positive cases and their exposures to the RHHD via red cap

A system to clear staff who are fully vaccinated is being investigated. Chtaura Jackson also stated that if an individual has had COVID 19 within the past 90 days and they do not have symptoms then they do not need to quarantine if exposed to someone with COVID 19.

HCPS is using the new guidance for who is considered a close contact in schools. Using 3 feet for all K-12 students if they are both wearing a properly fitted mask the entire time. Concerns remain about whether this could be accomplished given that children have trouble with wearing masks properly due to fit and other factors. Currently 6 feet is being used for all bus, PK, and adult exposures. The flow chart that was communicated needs to be updated to include the 10-day vs 14-day quarantine and 3 vs. 6 feet close contact definition (for students K-12).

**Athletics**- no updates

**Volunteer guidelines**- Debbie Long (HCPS PTA) has been working with Cortney Berry to update all school PTA coordinators on the new volunteer and visitor guidelines. It is still up to the building administrator to make changes as necessary.

**Visitor guidelines**- see above.

**Other**-

**Communication**- when making changes and recommendations, everyone should be included on the discussion. The health committee needs to be made aware if changes are being recommended to the HCPS School Board on health-related matters.

It is also important to communicate with nurses any health/COVID related changes before updating administrators. This allows for trust and clear expectations of each role.

The school community of students, staff and families need clear guidance on the current prevention strategies and protocols including any changes that are being made.

**Wellness Policy** – currently the expectation according to the Wellness Policy is for height/weight to be recorded on each student in grades K-10 grade. This has been updated with VDOE so the HCPS policy may need revision. The updating should be done through the SHAB. Hearing and Vision screenings will start in November after SHS has reviewed the vision grant per the Superintendent’s memo.

[NPR article](#) - this article was reviewed and discussed. In the article, a San Francisco school district who has a similar demographic and number of students as HCPS has had success with reducing and eliminating COVID case outbreaks among it’s students and staff. Their definition of an outbreak is 3 cases vs. 2 cases here at HCPS. There is a high percentage of their staff who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Their efforts also include requiring vs mandating COVID vaccines for all those eligible, both students and staff. Those who are not vaccinated have weekly COVID testing. The students/staff do self-tests and drop them off at a central location. A vendor then processes the tests and reports back to each school administrator for follow up.

James Upshaw and Chtaura suggested the VDH K-12 testing program that has been offered and discussed at prior meetings. Some considerations for this should include the necessary waivers, staff (not school nurses) and reporting systems needed. A meeting with the vendor for this program will be set up for next week.

**Next meeting** will take place on Monday 9/20/2021. Meetings will continue weekly.