

# Henrico County Public Schools

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

9/20/2021

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 – 231.8 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests data is 6.4 %. This is a slight decrease from last week.
3. **Vaccine update**- Total number of those 12-17 years old who are fully vaccinated is 56.1 %. Those who are 18 years old and over is 68.6%.

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

HCPS and Henrico County Emergency Management is partnering with VDH to provide school sites for COVID vaccines once those age 5-11 are eligible. There will be 500 openings at each event. The planned sites are Elko and Fairfield Middle Schools.

Henrico County will continue to offer COVID testing for the community. There was an event on Saturday, September 18, 2021. 200 people out of a possible 400 came to that event.

Communication is the key to success for both vaccine and testing events in the community. This information must get out early and often.

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. There are 19 clinic aide positions open for next school year. Two part time contact tracers started last week and are being trained on all aspects of the position. **Other school positions**- no updates given

-**Facilities**- No updates

- **Contact Tracing**- Contact tracing has increased in volume and recently there have been a lot of changes made to get students back to the classrooms quickly. Due to many people working contact tracing last week including contact tracing at school health services, HCPS nurses and administrators as well as the RHHD, the exact numbers of positive cases and exposures cannot be counted. Starting next week, each school administrator will provide their

schools cases, both positive and exposures to their school communities. The data will then be uploaded into the HCPS COVID dashboard. Some challenges that were noted with the ability to effectively contact trace has been no seating or attendance charts on busses. There is now a plan in place to capture where students are sitting. There does need to be a more consistent process for making sure that student exposures are identified quickly on the bus. These processes need to be documented so all principals know.

Contact tracing processes were discussed and explained to the group using a phased in approach. In phase one, all community exposures will be worked either at the school or sent to HCPS Contact Tracing team. All positive cases and associated exposures will be sent via the red cap to RHHH to work cases. HCPS and RHHH are meeting today to discuss how this process has been going for the past week and to update the process. There was a concern that the process may draw a line between those that are vaccinated vs unvaccinated if schools separate the exposed in one room. Confidentiality must be always maintained even when putting out close contacts.

As community transmission goes down then more of the contact tracing may go to the schools to work. For now, the nurses are becoming overwhelmed with contact tracing tasks. They have been told to prioritize health care for those in the building and to ask for help when needed.

Some concerns were raised with a delayed timeline for getting students cleared if RHHH must wait for results to come to them first. RHHH stated they are working on process and will discuss at meeting later.

Ms. Atkins suggested the RACI model be used during this process. The acronym RACI stands for **responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed**. It highlights the different states of responsibility a stakeholder has over a particular task or deliverable.

There was also discussion about the ability for students who are on isolation and quarantine to access their education. With no hybrid approach there is concern that students will not get what is needed during time out. There were also concerns with the ability to connect with students if they are out. Calls from parents have indicated frustration with the contact tracing process and how to get their students caught up on missed work. A compromise would be to offer a virtual option if a student must miss due to COVID positive or exposure. Dr. Teigen will take this back to the DLT for discussion.

**Athletics**- no updates

**Volunteer guidelines**- no updates

**Visitor guidelines**- no updates

**Other**-

**Illness guidance-** Currently if students report an illness or go home ill from school with COVID symptoms then they are given a 10 day return letter. The students can come back to school sooner if they are evaluated by a medical provider. At this time, just getting a negative COVID test will not allow early re-entry to school. Many families have expressed frustration with this process and find it hard to get the note. According to our VDH and RHHD partners on the meeting, it is up to school divisions, but the guidance did come out last year from VDH suggesting this be the process used. HCPS used this process during times of high community transmission last year. More discussion to come on this.

**Childhood immunizations-** The new immunization requirements that came out this year that impacts 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders has put a strain on providers amongst the increased COVID cases. Currently the grace period for obtaining these immunizations has been extended. Parents must present an appointment card by the end of September and must have the appointment scheduled by the end of October.

**Use of school facilities-** individuals using schools and fields goes through either Henrico County Parks and Recreation or the school principal to approve.

**COVID testing-** HCPS and RHHD will meet with the VISTA program to learn about COVID testing for students/ staff and sports teams.

**Field trips-** Question about whether the swim lesson field trips should still occur since students will be unmasked during the lessons. Good communication to families and staff about these field trips is the key to safety.

**Next meeting** will take place on Monday 9/27/2021. Meetings will continue weekly.