

# Henrico County Public Schools

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

9/7/2021

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 – 263.6 cases per 100,000 which is in the high category. The percentage of positive tests data is 9.0 %.
3. **Vaccine update**- 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%.

It is expected that booster doses for those who received the MRNA vaccines will be approved on September 20, 2021. The CDC and FDA have not yet made this recommendation, but it is expected soon. Third doses for those who are immunocompromised have already received approval and those doses are being given currently.

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 is being evaluated. There are 16 clinic aide positions open for next school year. If these are not filled, then the schools will need to provide staff backups for the health isolation room. Two contact tracers have been hired and will be starting soon. **Other school positions**- no updates given

-**Facilities**- working hard to make sure that buildings are ready for students.

- **Contact Tracing**- HCPS School Health Services is currently doing all contact tracing. School Health Services is having trouble keeping up with the volume of cases that need to be worked. Communication and collaboration need to improve to be successful. There is no one else to do contact tracing. The nurses only work 7.25 hours/day. Contact tracing requires training and not just anyone can do this. School Health Services needs to have all staff in place before transitioning any contact tracing to the nurses. There have been over 160 exposures and positive cases over the past week. Cases are more complicated with many phone calls, emails and documentation needed in the electronic medical record. Professional development

activities have led to many exposures. Reminders to maintain social distance and keep seating charts have been given. There have been sports cases with exposures reported. There was discussion about whether athletics should occur during high community transmission. COVID testing of athletes was discussed. No procedures in place for this to occur. Concerns about who would coordinate this effort. This would involve many factors to be considered such as CLIA waivers for each school, documentation and follow up for individual players at each school. The goal would be to have this in place before the winter sports start in two months. Dr. Viray stated that the health department may be able to offer some support for both contact tracing and testing.

The new guidance for who is considered a close contact in schools has come out. It states that 3 feet can be used for all K-12 students if they are both wearing a properly fitted mask the entire time. Concerns 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.

**Athletics**- Reviewing contracting ticket sales to reduce lines and congestion at ticket booths for sporting events.

**Volunteer guidelines**- currently limiting to outside when instruction and inside in areas of no instruction.

**Visitor guidelines**-. Principals will have discretion for this based on the size of the event and needs of the community. CPR instructors will be allowed to instruct classes as having CPR certified staff is a requirement for the crisis plan. All classes must adhere to COVID prevention strategies.

**Field Trips**- Chaperones will be allowed for field trips. This is to ensure safety and supervision of students. It would be best for the chaperone to drive to the location if possible. Groups should remain together for the entire day to include lunch or meal activities.

**Other**-

**Temperature checks**- This was removed from the visitor screening. Committee members agreed based on information from Dr. Viray. (See previous notes).

**Face coverings**- refusal and consequences. This is a code of conduct issue and the DLT will discuss and provide recommendations.

**Next meeting** will take place on Monday 9/13 /2021. Meetings will be continue weekly.