

Minutes
Superintendent's Health Advisory Council- Medical Consultation
Wednesday February 23, 2022 6:30 pm- 7:15 pm

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Davis and introductions were made. Dawn MacAdams highlighted the changes to the COVID-19 school guidance made by SC DHEC on February 22nd. The major change to DHEC guidelines is to stop contact tracing when a school has less than a 10% positivity rate for students and employees over a two week period. Symptomatic persons and those testing positive for COVID-19 will continue to isolate for 5 days but close contacts will no longer have to quarantine and contact tracing can be suspended. In the event a school has a greater than 10% positivity rate over a two week period, then contact tracing, quarantine, and other mitigation measures will be reimplemented.

DHEC and the CDC have changed their calculation of community transmission (low, moderate, substantial and high). They will focus more on numbers of hospitalizations, the impact on healthcare resources/ infrastructure, and deaths; not focus on the percent positivity. The new calculation for Richland County still places us in substantial spread according to the [CDC Integrated County View](#) map.

Our health care professionals: Two Infectious Disease Physicians, a PICU intensivist, a Pediatrician, and an Infectious Disease Pediatric Pharmacist discussed the DHEC changes. All were in agreement to move forward with DHEC recommendations for suspending contact tracing when positivity rates are less than 10%. This should be done with caution, as COVID-19 is not gone. When numbers rise we need to reimplement mitigating strategies of universal masking, contact tracing, quarantine, etc.

A decision was made to suspend universal masking when schools are at a 10% positivity rate or less. Masks will still need to be worn in healthcare areas such as the health room and the athletic training room. All visitors must wear masks while inside school buildings.

Persons returning from isolation after 5 days must mask for days 6-10 per DHEC guidelines. If a student or employee will not wear a mask, they will need to isolate for the full 10 days prior to returning. A form is being developed for employees and students to complete, agreeing to wear a mask for days 6-10. When we met, masks were required on school buses but the SC State Department of Education rescinded the mask mandate for school buses Friday, February 25th.

All discussed changes will be implemented Monday, February 28th. Attendees were asked not to discuss the findings of the meeting with others to allow the school district to create clear messaging for parents and employees. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully,

Dawn MacAdams, MSN, RN, NCSN
Richland School District Two Coordinator of Health Services