

Minutes of 1/18/2023 School Health Advisory Board Meeting

Present: Rebecca Abernathy, Lori Balaban, Gemila Boubert, Erin Callas, Kristi Davis, Brenda Doremus-Daniel, Eileen Gomez, Chris Siebert

SPOT Vision Screener for periodic school-based screenings

Eileen described the state mandate for vision screening for all students in grades K, 3, 7 and 10 as well as students new to the division, and as part of the SPED eligibility determination. ACPS owns a SPOT vision screening instrument, which uses infrared technology to measure curvatures in the retina predictive of visual deficits. School nurses also sometimes enlist Lions Club volunteers to conduct screenings via instrumentation. This is a very time-efficient method of conducting mass screenings, but there is some dispute about whether instrumentation screening is as accurate as verbal screening using eye charts. A local pediatric ophthalmologist counsels against using instrumentation screening except for students who cannot participate in verbal acuity/eye charts. A cursory review of literature shows the SPOT results to be similar to those of eye charts.

Can we check on the rate of both false negatives and false positives from instrumentation screening? The false negatives may be addressed by a follow-up screening using eye charts and only referring students who fail both.

The pediatricians strongly encourage continued consistent vision screening at the prescribed intervals particularly through age 9 since early identification and treatment can prevent significant vision loss.

Use of [undesigned albuterol](#) extended to athletics

Eileen reported that a school nurse who is also a high school coach asked if the undesigned albuterol can be used during high school athletics. Discussion points included:

- The law does not specify who or when undesigned albuterol can be used.
- This would be very useful for students with exercise-induced asthma who forget or ran out their own inhaler.
- If the athletic trainers are permitted to use undesigned inhalers they would need to take the state-created training that the school nurses underwent. Eileen will check to see how the ATs feel about this proposition.
- ATs would have to follow the same standing order protocol issued to the school nurses.
- Albuterol inhaler use would not provide any athletic advantage, and is not considered a medication with abuse potential.
- Students who have not been previously diagnosed with asthma should be referred to their PCP with a report from the AT about the incident that warranted inhaler use.
- May have to consider some participation restriction for students who require the undesigned inhaler on a on a recurring basis and the parents do not provide one.

Hire industrial hygienist to measure EMF

Eileen shared the minutes of the previous meeting with the Director of Building Services where they noted that SHAB discussed the consideration of hiring a certified industrial hygienist to measure EMF on the AHS campus. The board then voted unanimously against that proposition based on the available literature about the safety limits set by federal agencies.

[BD Veritor](#) COVID and influenza A and B tests at school

Eileen reported that the health department has made available a supply of point-of-care antigen tests for COVID and influenza A and B. These tests would require a CLIA waiver and would need to be performed on-site. Given that the community availability of PCR testing is becoming scarce (community PCR testing through UVA ends at the end of January and the BRHD no longer offers PCR testing), this might be very helpful to parents. Points to consider:

- If offered, have written information to give to parents about what they should do with positive results including contacting PCPs about the possibility of Tamiflu if influenza positive, and consider re-testing in a few days if COVID negative at the onset of fever, especially with a known exposure.

- Would there be criteria for testing or would it just be offered to families whose children are being sent home from school with illness symptoms such as fever and/or respiratory symptoms?
- Check the expiration dates for these tests.
- These may have been more useful before the winter break when influenza case numbers were much higher, but it is possible that the area will see a second wave.

Nebulizers at school

Eileen reported that ACPS banned the use of nebulizers at school during the pandemic due to the fact that it is considered an aerosolizing procedure and therefore could pose a risk to the person administering the nebulizer and others in the health office at the time. The pediatricians agree that since for most children an inhaler with a masked spacer is just as effective at treating asthma as a nebulizer, it is reasonable to continue the nebulizer ban.

Students biting other students

Eileen reported that there is a very specific procedure for when an employee is bitten by a student, which involves presenting the situation to the medical director of the health department or designee to determine whether there is enough of a risk of BBP transmission to warrant testing. There is no such procedure for when a student bites another student, and the interim health department medical director reported that they would not make such determinations for student situations since the risk is typically very low (there has never been a case reported of transmission to the person bitten). The pediatricians recommend washing the site very well with soap and running water, checking the hep B immunization status of both students, documenting the incident, notifying parents to monitor for infection and referring them to their physician for additional concerns.

Menstrual products

Eileen reports that ACPS has received donations of menstrual products from several sources this fall and that products are not only available in the student bathrooms, but from the school nurses if students need some for home use. Some questions arose about the puberty unit instruction and other components of the [Family Life Curriculum](#). Eileen and Chris explained that ACPS is very specific about consistent adherence to the curriculum across the division, that the curriculum is based on state SOLs, is reviewed periodically by a defined committee, and approved by the School Board.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:30 pm in Room 320 of the McIntire County Office Building

- March 15, 2023
- May 17, 2023