

Task Force Meeting Minutes 9/7/21

Present: Melanie Frieze, Shanna McTeague, Amy Newman, Vanessa Grinnell, Rachel Patte, Tracy Bell, Joy Page, Joanne McCann, Heather Clark, Sean Meagher, Joe Parzych, Tom Rup, Christine Vayda, Brian Ernest, Cathy Zylinski, Nicole Bizarro, Nicole Clayton, Megan Young, Jordenne Sargent, Nicole Kukesh, Jamie Marston, Susan Gualtieri, Karen Mongeon, Sarah Wagner, Bill Furbush, Ben Bourgoin

1. Current Numbers
 - a. 22 Active Cases in Epping (7 on August 21, 2021)
 - b. 25 New Cases in Epping last 14 days
 - c. Test Positivity Rate last seven days
 - i. Epping - 13.1%
 - ii. Seacoast - 6.7%
 - iii. Rockingham County - 7.8%
2. Clarification on Quarantine Guidance
 - a. [Vaccinated](#)
 - b. [Unvaccinated](#)
 - c. Create a link for parents to submit the information - this can be added to admin letters; can use the e-collect system;
 - d. We will also ask question of staff?
 - e. How will teachers know if students are quarantined? We will use the same process as last year.
 - f. We had been following DHHS and CDC guidance re: masks, etc.
3. Feedback on Opening of School
 - a. Rapid changes just prior to the start of school.
 - b. School Perspective
 - i. Middle - High school - great start; kids were upset that the woman protesting never asked what they wanted.
 - ii. Elementary - kids are delighted to have lunch in the cafeteria and UA in UA rooms; still promoting hand hygiene
 - c. Parent Perspective
 - i. Disappointed that no survey was sent out regarding masks; did not get state guidance until 8/11 and we met 8/17.
 - ii. Question: Can we do a survey again? To parents, staff and students.
 - iii. Nicole B - Concerns about opening plan - take kids outside as much as possible; teachers who are taking masks off outside; students not using masks correctly.
 - iv. Survey going forward? Survey is not a vote, it is a solicitation of information to consider.

- d. Student Perspective: no students present
 - e. Other: we have considered closing in the past, based on Epping numbers; DHHS guidance is not saying we need to wear masks, they say currently it is a local decision. Now we are all in a “substantial” category - town and seacoast region.
 - f. Are our mitigation strategies working? Are we seeing significant transmission?
 - g. Masks are meant to help prevent transmission. It doesn’t necessarily impact quarantine.
 - h. What happens if we go with the seacoast number and town number is different? We decided not to go with Rockingham County due to the number of large towns/cities.
 - i. Be sure we have mask break areas and scheduled breaks - principals check with staff.
 - j. To do: Create a survey - Bill will create a draft and share it for feedback.
 - i. We did survey some elementary students last time - parents were able to assist.
 - ii. Potential questions: Is mask wearing better, same or worse than last year? Compare the opening of school this year to last year? “Do I want to wear a mask” is different from “will I wear one?”
4. Current Recommendations - Modified Phase 3
- a. Current CDC and DHHS Recommendations - Unchanged
 - b. DPHS - Call on September 15, 2021
 - c. Modified Phase 3
 - i. Universal indoor mask use - modify because
 - ii. Masks optional outdoors
 - iii. Social distancing to the extent possible
 - iv. Cohorting by classrooms indoors - explain this to families; give examples
 - v. Change previous two bullets to: “Social distancing and cohorting to the extent possible”
 - vi. Hygiene and disinfection protocols
 - vii. Nurses will put together information for parents to update the newsletter
 - d. Change or continue with current recommendations?
 - e. Adding to the task force: we need to get more students; Bill will reach out to the students who served before and ask if they want to continue

Next Meeting: 9/21 3:30 - 5:00