

Return to School (RtS) Committee

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

MINUTES

4PM

Attendees: Jessica Berry, Mike Felton, Adam Bullard, Alane Kennedy, Shasta Minery, Kate Bourne, Amy Hufnagel, Autumn Belajonas, Randy Elwell, Becky Delaney

Resources:

[2021-2022 School Plan](#)

[Current SOP](#)

1. Winter Sports Update

- a. **Rapid Testing:** Students are testing 2x weekly. Autumn has a schedule that allows students to come down to the office to be tested throughout the day. Autumn has been able to do some testing during practices which decreases the amount of kids testing throughout the day. The testing routine increases Autumn's workload but it's manageable and going well.
- b. The Sarah Alert reporting system is no longer required which reduces the amount of reporting (and time) Autumn spends inputting data into this system.
- c. **COVID cases:** We have not had any COVID cases on the team or that have disrupted the season.

2. COVID Update

- a. **# of positive cases this year:** We have had 12 positive cases so far this year. Over 5% of our student population has had COVID, this is relatively high considering that Omicron has not yet arrived.
- b. **Recent positive case:** With our recent positive case $\frac{3}{4}$ of the class were considered close contacts and therefore we determined that the whole class would move to remote learning to ensure that the maximum number of students received quality instruction.
- c. **Vaccination Rate Staff/Students - [Article](#):** St. George student vaccination rate is quite low, what can we do to support access to vaccinations and decrease the amount of time students spend out of school due to being close contacts.
- d. **Mitigation measures:** Currently what we have in place seems to be working effectively. We are following the SOP in response to a positive case and maintaining school wide masking.

3. Updates from Heather, Kate & Amy

Kate and Heather support and recommend revisiting a vaccination clinic to support access to vaccines. The vaccination rate for students is low compared to other districts in our area. With Omicron coming they recommend revisiting safety and mitigation

factors/plans, our remote learning plan and testing. If possible, rapid tests should be used for students who have traveled over vacation. Heather shared that COVID cases are certainly increasing and that she remains in support of vaccination and pooled testing.

4. Vaccine Outreach & Info for Families

- a. Student vaccination rates: state data shows that 30-34% of St. George students have been vaccinated. This is less than most other towns in our area (e.g., Appleton 95%+, Hope 90-94%, RSU 13 55-59%, RSU 40 55-59%, Wiscasset 70-74%)
 - Autumn and Jess will reach out to PenBay to collaborate in setting up a vaccination clinic.

5. Holiday Break

- a. **Family reminders:** Mike will be sending out a letter before and after the holiday to review mitigation measures.
- b. **Rapid Testing:** The team agreed that rapid testing as a test to stay, and early detection method is our current best strategy to prevent spread. Autumn will be ordering more BiNax tests. The team discussed testing all students and staff upon return to school, or offering testing for students who have traveled. Autumn, Jess and Mike are worried about the supply of rapid tests.

6. **Supporting Rapid Testing in the Community**

- a. Letters from Mike will include an emphasis on rapid testing prior to returning to school and prior to attending school when experiencing symptoms of COVID.