

7/23/20

Time: 2:05 - 3:05 pm

Purpose: Create common framework for COVID-19 prevention and mitigation in the school setting.

DOH advice to PCSB:

- Need to let parents know there will be disruptions due to closures and things are constantly changing.
- Let parents know what they should look for in terms of sx
- Children should be tested before returning
- Dr. Choe expressed concerns about widespread closures to Dr. Grego
 - Informed him at a minimum the classroom will be closed if a child tests positive with
- If a child tests positive the classroom will be closed for 2-5 days for investigations and deep cleaning
 - Classmates will be excluded for 14 days.
 - Workgroup is considering if all classmates must be tested before returning.

Questions PCSB has for DOH:

Q: Wondering if there is ready made info for what parents should know beforehand?

A: DOH could look into sending a letter to parents or schools can put this in with attestation. Once final numbers are in after survey closes on Monday, the possibility of cohorting can be revisited. PCSB - this info may change parents decisions to choose brick and mortar over virtual. Those that do not make choice will be placed in traditional learning. Only about 1/3 have responded at this point. Split about 50/50.

Q: Wants to know how many staff PCSB should have ready?

A: There will be more work/more calls in the beginning. Staffing on phone calls will be more heavy in the beginning and then they can transition to something else. DOH experienced that 2 people answering phones for day cares was a lot.

Q: What work can be done on the front end to possibly lessen panic/calls?

A: Use school connect to send messaging/letters before school begins. DOH finds COVID is a continual education process.

Q: Does PCSB need to separate calls from reporting COVID+ student and just providing general info?

A: DOH thinks they could do a one catch all or separate general questions from others. It depends on school capacity to handle issue. DOH has sent a FAQ to our staff answering phone calls for guidance. This helps with what types of phone calls to anticipate and to have talking points.

Q: Can students come back if they don't have a negative result?

A: It is up to the schools and what they are comfortable with. CDC clause that essential personnel may be let back before receiving a negative. At this time teachers and staff not being considered essential because of backlash from teachers. **DOH can send out CDC guidance to PCSB about staff returning to work.**

Questions DOH has for PCSB:

Q: How do you plan to handle the surge of calls coming in from parents?

- The parent should call their child's respective school contact for guidance before DOH

A: Still trying to figure this out. Will figure this out based on survey results. If student is positive or it is a household, first point of contact is principal. Employees are given COVID team phone number. Dr. Choe suggests empowering LPN's take these calls instead of principal. DOH wants to ensure that we are saying the same things as PCSB.

Q: Return to school policy for children/staff

- If a child/staff is sent home due to symptoms what is the criteria for return?
- Will testing be required?
 - If no testing, how will you assess for their return?

A: Struggling to create guidelines. Current process is employees can return with doctors notes, but will most likely not do this without testing. This will remain process for staff. Classroom teachers in PCSB could fill out a form to request alternative assignment to not be placed in brick and mortar. To think over process for students. Concerned because of delay in receiving results. What happens when testing takes 5-7 days to come back? What if then after that the result comes back positive are the excluded for another 14 days? DOH says depending on sx yes.

- What DOH has done in the past: for first 24 hours classroom to close while DOH gathers info and conduct deep cleaning. **Tell parents the quicker they work with DOH, the quicker the problem is resolved.** Exclude contacts for 14 days and recommend testing around day 10-12. DOH advised day cares in a test based strategy, PCSB could do the same or the symptom based strategy. **Every school to follow same strategy.**

There needs to be guidelines for:

- For asx contacts
- For not known contacts but sx
- For sx contacts
- For those with sx other than resp.

Questions to think about for next meeting:

- DOH wants to know how we will interface on a day to day - how will we share data?
- If a child is absent what is the follow up process?
 - Are they being called to verify symptoms related to COVID or testing?
 - Will calls be made after 2 absences?
 - Those who call out what is the criteria for return?
 - How will this be documented?