

Health Advisory Board Report and Recommendations to the School Board November 2013

A report of activities and recommendations was presented and submitted in the spring. This is an update of undertakings and recommendations since then.

- 1) **AEDs:** Based on recommendations from the spring, AEDs were purchased and installed at the schools that did not have them. There are several people in each building trained in CPR/AED and since this training is now a requirement for teacher re-licensure, there will be many more trained individuals in each school.
- 2) **School-based immunizations:** Legislation was passed in 2006 requiring students to receive a dose of Tdap prior to entry into middle school. Despite the fact that every spring elementary schools send notifications to parents of fifth grade students via various methods, there is always a last minute scramble to obtain the immunization when parents find out their sixth graders will not be able to start middle school until immunization documentation is provided. In order to address this, we implemented a pilot program in the spring where health department nurses administered the vaccine at three elementary schools. Participation counts are below:

Name of School	# of participants	# 5 th grade students	Percentage
Scottsville	13	41	32
Meriwether	21	70	30
Agnor Hurt	19	80	24

At the suggestion of members of the health advisory board, we piloted a program where influenza shots were offered to students during our employee flu shot clinics this fall. Participation was as follows:

Name of School	#of participants	# of students	Percentage
Yancey	8	149	5.5
Walton	28	356	8
Murray High	10	109	9

Some major differences between the two immunizations should be noted:

- Tdap shots are mandatory while flu shots are not
- Tdap shots were offered free of charge while flu shots were not
- We did not need to collect insurance information or try to get reimbursed for Tdap

Recommendations: The health advisory board encourages immunizations as an effective way of controlling the spread of illnesses and recommends that schools continue to consider offering immunizations at school for families who might otherwise have difficulty obtaining immunizations, if

staffing and financial resources allow. It is further recommended that the schools continue to work with the health department to maximize accessibility to immunizations.

3) School Nurses/ School Health Services

Please see the attached ***budget initiative*** related to the health advisory board's recommendation to increase elementary school nurses' hours to full-time. Presently there are full-time nurses in the middle and high schools but part-time nurses in the elementary schools.

- School clinics remain busy with 164,499 visits last year at an average of 940 daily visits to school clinics across the Division. Please see the attached **Clinic Visit Summary** for a full report.
- The annual **Chronic Conditions Report** shows the prevalence of special health conditions in our schools. In comparison to previous years it is noteworthy to see the increase in students diagnosed with severe food allergies, autism, seizure disorders and mental health conditions.
- The surrounding school districts of Charlottesville, Greene and Augusta have full-time nurses at all levels.