

CHAMPLAIN PTO

Champlain Elementary PTO

Community Check-In Minutes 10-14-2021

6:34 pm Buddy Singh (co-president of the PTO) began the meeting

The meeting will be recorded.

Speakers will be:

- Principal Joe Resteghini
Rebecca McCray (District Lead Nurse)
- Dr. Becca Bell
- Dr. Conneley
- Dr. Weinberger

Principal Resteghini Updates:

- Marty Spaulding re: outdoor classroom project. Hoping to get a more permanent outdoor classroom up in Spring
- Next week is the virtual open house. There will also be a recording of the open house so you can access all of your children's teachers.
- The blue note this week has an interest form regarding a UVM girls basketball clinic to gauge interest. This is open to 3rd-5th graders. The hope is to hold a boys clinic in January/ February.
- Joe thanked the school nurse Brian Kelley for his awesome job keeping the Champlain Community safe.

Q&A

Q re: eating outside and especially having snack outside.

A: There is currently a staffing crunch (at Champlain and across the school district). This is a challenge for supervision. When students have lunch, that is when the classroom teacher takes their lunch which leaves one supportive adult in the class. There are two outdoor classrooms operating and classes are trying to get outside as much as possible but it is harder during lunch.

Q: What happens when classes have to go into quarantine?

A-Currently there is one class in remote learning.

If there are singular students out who are home sick or waiting for a test there is no option in the BSD for synchronous learning. Families can ask for a packet of work/ books or iPADs to do work in these situations. Champlain must follow the expectations and protocols of the Burlington School District to be in alignment with all schools in the district.

Q- re: parent volunteers

A- the positions are posted on the BSD website. Parents who would like to help would need to apply with BSD for the job position.

Q re- If class is in quarantine what to expect

A- If the teacher is fully vaccinated the teacher can come into the building. There will be a morning meeting and afternoon check in, not a full day of students logged in to class.

Update from Nurse Kelley:

Last year there were 7 cases that were contact traced throughout the school year.

This year there is 1 case which is still being traced.

Of the 7 cases, there has been zero spread within the school. This reflects the amazing job that the teachers are doing reminding students to mask up and hand wash. Also to the students who are doing their part following the school rules.

This year is even more challenging than last year. There have been several viral colds that have hit many students and staff as well as strep throat and norovirus. Nurse Kelly thanked all the parents for being understanding

Rebecca McCray- there have been 18 cases this year in the district. There were over 80 last year. Only 7 of the cases this year led to a classroom having to stay home. All of the precautions that Burlington is taking are showing to be working to not have spread within the school. Please continue to keep students home if they have any symptoms.

Dr. Greg Connolly (pediatrician) presented current statistics of how many cases of COVID there have been in the world and in the US including the number of deaths. Currently Vermont is at the worst part of the pandemic with the highest number of cases. Cases in children are going up and the rate of cases with unvaccinated Vermonters is 3.9 x higher. Less than 1% of cases are in vaccinated people. If there were a statewide vaccination mandate or statewide mask mandate that would be helpful. Pfizer and Moderna booster shots are forthcoming. Booster shots are quite controversial when our neighbor countries like Haiti have the lowest vaccination rates in the world. It does feel like more kids have illness this year but it is hard to know yet. The immune system does lose some antibody memory when someone hasn't had the common cold. There has also been hand, foot and mouth disease. There has not been influenza yet.

Dr. Stan Weinberger (pediatrician) : The FDA is meeting on the 26th of Oct and in Nov the advisory panel will meet. Stan explained how mRNA vaccines work. mRNA is not our genetic DNA. Pfizer is recommending 1/3 of the dose. 7 million kids age 12-17 have had 2 doses. People who are vaccinated are 25x less likely to experience severe disease or death. Most common side effects are pain at injection sites, fever, chills, body pain. Severe side effects are 2-3 in a million and generally occur within 15 minutes of the injection. Myocarditis is also rare and more common in boys/ teenagers and young

adults. This has been reported in 1/ 10,000 MIS-C whereas COVID-19 has caused the same condition 1/1,000.

What are the long-term consequences?

The vaccines have been around for a year. We don't know about 5-10 years down the road. Generally side effects happen 5-10 minutes after a vaccine. We also don't know the long-term effects of COVID. Likely there will be larger sites and school clinics as well as local pediatricians' office.

Becca Bell: President of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont

Many kids have high social-emotional needs and developmental and mental health at the same time as keeping them safe from COVID. The children's vaccine needs a whole different dosage and initially the dose will go to the Williston site. Some bigger pediatricians' offices may have access. November 4th? Kids who are most at risk for getting COVID are those who live with unvaccinated adults. The best way to protect children is to surround them with vaccinated adults. Kids are tending to get COVID at home and not at school. There is about a 2% chance that children in a classroom. "Test to Stay" is a difficult thing to implement logistically. As we are gathering more data and are also revising what it means to be a close contact. Surveillance testing is not as effective as keeping kids home when they are symptomatic. Please be extra vigilant about keeping kids home from school. The statewide protocol is to keep kids home

The most common symptom in Vermont for kids with COVID is a runny nose or congestion.

Greg Connolly added to the chat that he is in favor of doing only the PCR test. Results are coming back in 48 hours and kids with cold symptoms should be kept home for 48 hours when sick anyways.

Q- re: "Test to Stay"

A- (Rebecca McCray) there is no personnel in the district to staff this option so Test to Stay is logistically extremely difficult. In theory "test to stay" is amazing but rolling it out logistically is difficult. The district is looking into seeing if there are people that may be willing to help in the case volunteers are needed to help with testing.

Q re: serious cases in children

A- (Dr. Becca Bell) Of the children in VT who get COVID .1% severe disease/ end up in the hospital.

In Chat/ Dr. Weinberger: Another way to look at that- there have been ~500 deaths in kids under 18 years old (125 deaths in kids 5-11 years old). In comparison, every year about 150-180 kids die from influenza each year.

To return to school your child should have a negative PCR test and also be symptom free. If you have had close contacts or symptoms an antigen test should not be used .

Q re: vaccines

A- Next age bands should be 2-4 years and it will be 6 months likely between bands. There is also dose de-escalation by age bands with least reactogenic.

Please continue to communicate with Nurse Kelly regarding your child's health so he is aware of testing information. Please contact Brian Kelly in the best way that works for the parents/ guardians. bkelly@bsdvt.org or 802-865-5300, 802-864-8477

There has not been much information regarding if there will be upcoming vaccine mandates in Vermont Schools.

Rebecca McCray said to please reach out to her with any questions:

rmccray@bsdvt.org

November Community Check In Date: Thursday November 11 6:30-8pm via Zoom.