

## VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

October 19, 2020 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers\*

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### **AAP Updates**

*Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP:* The Task Force (large group) and workgroups continue to meet. The first workgroup, focused on clinical practice, is assembling guidance for addressing race as part of anticipatory guidance, assessing patients and families for related strengths and stressors and connecting to resources. This workgroup is ready to connect with community consultants. The workgroups focused on the clinical environment and culture and resources for youth and families are now combined. The combined workgroup is focusing on training clinical and office staff in culturally competent care and creating inclusive spaces. Additional priorities are identifying more local resources for BIPOC patients and families, resources for white parents raising non-white children and resources for white families to promote anti-racism.

We also had a wonderful presentation at the large group taskforce meeting today by Adam Rasta, a member of the Larner College of Medicine Class of 2022. Adam joined us on the task force and provided an outstanding presentation on common medical concerns for people of color in Chittenden County. Based on both some work he's doing with other groups focused on this topic as well as some field work he's completed in Chittenden County, so I'm hoping we can expand that message to a broader audience in the future.

### **VDH Update – Testing and PPE**

*Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP:* There has been a lot of work going on, largely in regard to this group's discussion, regarding testing and PPE use. What's out now is a specific focus on PPE, and we're interested in your feedback. We've had multiple conversations with you on what is the appropriate PPE to use when collecting test specimens and based on the setting. The guidance is applicable for both indoor and outdoor settings. It is separated by the distance between the provider and the individual during specimen collection for the test. There is a more comprehensive checklist in development from VDH about testing.

*Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP & VDH:* We are learning a lot from you and trying to standardize it in a way that can be shared. We have a checklist coming out for you. We are grateful that we continue to bump along. I think we will have to talk about this for several weeks hence. There is more and more need for testing as the cases keep creeping up ever so slightly.

*Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP:* We are mindful of and have been collecting questions on coding, billing, and reimbursement.

### **COVID-19 and Ice Hockey**

*Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP:* There was some concern that folks who had been closed out of New Hampshire rinks might try to come use the rinks in Vermont.

\*Note: This is a paraphrased synopsis of the call and is not a word-for-word transcription.

*Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP & VDH:* The number of cases associated with teams who used that venue is growing every day. It's fast becoming the news story of the week. It's an important reminder that just because we're experiencing low prevalence doesn't mean that it's business as usual. We can't let down on these mitigation strategies. We've got us all in public health concerned as we go into the holidays. It's a reminder that we're not immune.

### **Request Your Assistance Youth E-Cigarette Use Survey**

*Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP:* This is a new call for your assistance related to the use of e-cigarettes which harkens back to the wonderful presentation that we had from Dr. L.E. Faricy on this topic last week. The VCHIP team called the non-vaping team, which includes Dr. Barb Frankowski, sent out a REDCap survey this past week for a quality improvement project to address e-cigarette use in Vermont Youth (linked here: <https://redcap.med.uvm.edu/surveys/?s=PHXPWHDFED>). The goal is to assess primary care providers' knowledge and attitudes about youth vaping. The survey closes on Friday, but the team has indicated they can leave it open a bit longer.

### **Practice Issues: Epidemiology and School Updates**

*Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP & VDH:* I think you're doing a beautiful job with getting information sometimes before we are and engaging in dialogue with families about something that isn't really clear. So, I want to keep lines of communication open. The growing number of cases in school, the practical pieces of handling those are in your hands. I want to hear from you what's working and what's not. There's no way it won't impact what we're all trying to do. It would be helpful if you could figure out a way to get them tested at day seven, so we can get the worried well back to school after they've had what was considered a close contact. Those types of practical pieces are really in your hands and I just want to hear from you what's working and what's not.

### **Questions/Discussion:**

**Q: I'm wondering if vomiting was removed as a COVID symptom on the pediatric algorithm. Just asking as a letter sent to parents in the MAUSD school district did not include vomiting anymore.**

*A: Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP: We did not remove vomiting to my knowledge.*

*A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Vomiting is still there!*

**Q: Question was just posed to us from DFR about what happens when there's treatment that happens contemporaneously with testing. For example, a patient presents to their provider with a cough, and the provider administers a fluvid test and gives a nebulizer for the cough. DFR's understanding is that the entire claim would be covered without cost sharing (assuming the test was negative and the provider submitted a claim with dx codes z20.828 and r05). Is this something you're seeing or that should be specifically addressed in DFR guidance? Please follow up with [swinters@vtmd.org](mailto:swinters@vtmd.org).**

*A: Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP: We'll add this into the mix of other billing and coding questions that we're hearing.*

**Q: I've heard from families that some childcare directors are saying patients must be tested or stay out of daycare for 10 days. The daycare director said they were told to follow the school algorithm. I directed them to the VDH website, but childcare guidance and the school algorithm are still different, right?**

*A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: We stopped short of moving the entire clinical algorithm into child care age groups because that's a technical document that's meant for health care professionals to talk to each other with, meaning school nurses. But, we took the information and made a parent's guidance document for child care that is absolutely the same as the parent document for school aged children and it does not drive you to test only return.*

*A: Nathaniel Waite, RN, VDH:*

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