

VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

April 5, 2021 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers*

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Questions/Discussion

C: Sally Kerschen, RN, MSN, VDH: Vermont Public Health Association is also marking the occasion of National Public Health Week. VPHA asked Governor Scott to issue a proclamation, which he issued this morning on his website.

C: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: My VDH contacts just confirmed that denominator for vaccine data will change to the whole population soon.

Q: I am still following the protocol to test for COVID-19. Now I'm being asked if fever for one day and congestion for 1.5 days and now fine today, do they still need to be tested before returning to school after being well for 24 hrs. No known exposure. I thought yes.

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Yes, combination of fever with either cough or congestion requires testing, irrespective of duration.

Q: We are still required to pick up and drop off our children at daycare at a specific time. I am still seeing patients at that time and I am sure many parents are still working then. Luckily my partner is flexible, but he would like to work more too. This is because no mixing of pods of kids. Are there any upcoming updates to daycare guidelines to help working parents? Maybe for this summer?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: A few things 1) childcare is allowed to mix pods as needed for staffing, even in current guidance; 2) and we are working to revise the childcare guidance right now after wrapping up the new school guidance. Staggered drop off is being considered for revision.

A: I agree. We can't drop off at school all until 9:10-9:20am which is well after I'm seeing patients and much past the typical 8am drop off. We've been lucky to find a babysitter and have the \$ to afford her but she won't be available next year so hoping this will change. We are told it's due to bussing. The busses are used for all ages in our district so since there are less patients allowed on busses; they have to do more runs apparently. It's just crazy to me. My child doesn't take the bus. We drop off ourselves. But that late drop off is a real burden.

A: I am happy to continue this for now as obviously we need to. I just wanted to make sure updates to childcare guidelines are going to change at some point too. Especially since we pay through the nose for daycare. It would be nice to get that 1 hour plus of daycare back.

A: Something that parents seem not to want to change in the daycare guidance is in regard to sick children being excluded. They are happy that there are no more sick children in daycare. In regard to illness in daycare/schools, now we just need employers to support parents being allowed to stay at home when their kids are sick.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I promise nothing will change about illness and attending childcare! We have long thought that infectious disease prevention in childcare needs more attention.

C: I have scheduled a couple of tests for others. I had no issue with the options for vaccination and tests in blue boxes at the top of the screen. It never assumed for either person I scheduled.

C: I was the one who did the VDH registration. I was on my phone, so wondering if the mobile site works differently than on a computer.

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

Q: How about exposure at school, then symptoms develop, COVID test negative less than 7 days from exposure, then symptoms resolve. Based on the algorithm developed this fall, the person would not be able to return to school until 14 days after last exposure. Is that still accurate, or can that person test after 7 days if no longer having symptoms, to get out of quarantine prior to 14 days?

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: They would need to be re-tested at 7 days following last exposure and if negative could return then. I believe this was revised in a recent update.

Q: The main question I have with the email I received after registering for testing is the many school aged children who have now been identified as close contacts from school. Can they test at VDH sites if they are asymptomatic? We have referred lots of families for that indication for testing. It seems like then the automatic email that VDH sends after registering for a test should be changed to not include close contacts as a reason not to test at VDH. The email said that if you are a close contact, you should contact your PCP for testing, not use the VDH sites. This would discourage asymptomatic close contacts to use VDH sites for testing.

A: Alicia Jean Veit, MD, Timber Lane Pediatrics: I wonder if the automatic email is meant as a prompt so people know what "Day" they should test after.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Got it, thank you. I will tell them to change that! The health department is promoting the medical home for people who don't feel well. My team at the health department who do the testing said that it is okay if people don't go through their medical home to go and get a test at a health department site even in the setting of symptoms. I think they are just trying to drive a higher level of bifurcation asymptomatic to the sites if you're not feeling well or need a test while you're symptomatic, to talk to their medical provider.

Q: How has the vaccine uptake for childcare workers been? Is it close to the 80% you mentioned for teachers last week?

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I actually don't know and I'm not clear that our childcare state leaders are keeping the data the way that the Agency of Education is, so I will inquire.

Q: Any sense of why the Rutland testing site is constantly full?

A: I agree with the Rutland site having limited availability. I have driven to Bennington and had my kids tested at the hospital because they have more open spots, and they get results within hours not days.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I do not know that.

Q: Can you attach to the email tonight the most up to date algorithm for COVID-19 in pediatric patients for triage, evaluation, testing and return to school? I just looked at the updated algorithm on the VCHIP website and it still says return to school 14 days after last exposure (not an option to test day 7) if have symptoms, even if symptoms have improved.

A: Breena Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: We will send you the link. Everyone needs to use links for updates. It is on the VCHIP website on the first page near the resources piece. March 1st there is a clearer algorithm.

Q: The link for recommended sports guidance from Friday seemed to be school sports related. The ACCD link I found was last updated in Oct 2020.

A: Benjamin Lee, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: In general, I have little concern for outdoor sports. I'm not sure why the links aren't correct.