

## VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

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

Wendy Davis, MD, FAAP, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM

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### Questions/Discussion

**Q: Does anyone know if there is any state guidance for middle school graduations/celebrations? Is it different from high school?**

A: Sharonlee Trefry, RN: <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/2020-21-end-of-school-year-gatherings-and-graduations>

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Guests outside of the school community are allowed if mitigation strategies are followed, and Strong and Healthy Year/Vermont Forward are adhered to.

**Q: The vaccine dashboard is still missing in Washington County and several others. I cannot see the 16-17% for several counties including Washington. Can see the % for other counties...**

A: Nathaniel Waite, RN, VDH: I see that now. Writing email now to VDH partners.

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: I reached out to Jessie Hammond about 16/17 percentage yesterday, so she is your contact.

A: Nathaniel Waite, RN, VDH: It appears to be related to this portion of the notes on that page: Percentages reported as 95% indicate  $\geq 95\%$ . Actual value is suppressed due to large numbers to protect individual's health information. An additional value may also be suppressed since the total values include the true totals. The number of people reported stops increasing once the percentage reaches 95%.

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Appreciate the efforts here and more clarity coming. This is not the issue occurring in the glitched columns, as there are currently no counties with a vaccination rate over 70%.

**Q: Will Dr. Bell's video be made publicly available?**

A: Wendy Davis, MD, VCHIP: We will post the PPT on the VCHIP COVID-19 web site, along with the video and script with Dr. Bell's permission!

A: Becca (Rebecca) Bell, MD, UVMMC: Yes, feel free to make publicly available.

**Q: Masking guidance for children outside?**

A: Jessica Denton, CHTSW, Timber Lane Pediatrics: It is so hard to expect the little league kiddos mask up vs mask down - especially when running in from outfield. We decided for our local Little League to just always have masks up.

A: Juli Krulowitz, PhD, VCHIP: After seeing little league guidance yesterday, I emailed our league about Tball players. expecting them to maintain 6 ft seems unrealistic. they agreed and sent another email to say masks stay on for Tball

A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Following the Vermont Forward Plan, the masking policy requires masks outdoors when you are in a crowd or with other households where you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance. Given that children in childcare are with other households and generally not able to maintain a 6-foot distance, they should be masked outdoors. This will be revisited as we enter each new step of the Vermont Forward Plan.

**Q: When is childcare guidance changing? I have heard from families that drop off and hours are challenging.**

*A: Becca (Rebecca) Bell, MD, UVMMC: That is center dependent. At my childcare we have had full-time hours and have been able to go into the building for drop-off/pick-up (just not into the classroom but can go to the doorway) this entire year. I think it depends on their space and what they feel comfortable with and not dependent on state guidance.*

*A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Already started, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Actual language is, visitors are discouraged. Childcare was not comfortable with self-attestation about vaccine status of parents. Becca is right. Drop off can be in building if center/home decides that is ok. We also say that staggered drop off is now an optional strategy. I am sure the childcare would welcome a visit outside of kid time for the family to see the environment.*

**Q: How many employees were vaccinated? What is the denominator for the 13 who were vaccinated?**

*A: Cindy Noyes, MD, LCOM and UVMMC: The institution is huge, so it is a bit of a moving target. Tier 1A uptake was >90%. Not everyone fit eligibility on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We have over 6700 employees who are fully vaccinated, out of approximately 8000 employees. We only know for sure when we see vaccination records. It is likely that the 6700 number is lower than it truly is.*

**Q: Based on VT forward, if the vaccination rates continue to move in the correct direction will mask mandates be lifted for all ages?**

*A: Breana Holmes, MD, VCHIP, VDH: Yes!*

**Q: Parents have been asking if masks will be mandated at the start of the academic year in late Aug?**

*A: Halle Davis: I heard Dr. Levine say that!*

*A: Liz Hamilton, RN, Christ the King School: It is interesting to go back and forth so much about sports and masks then just ditch them all in 8 weeks for everyone even unvaccinated.*