Considerations for Re-Opening

*Score 1 for Health – Kansas City University*

- Medical, nursing, and allied health students provide basic health screenings, team of community health workers and nurses then work to connect students to services
- Historically bring 50-75 students into buildings to provide screenings for about 3 hours during the school day
- Working internally to continue to meet the needs of kids in schools – may still be able to provide in-person and looking for adaptations such as moving some screenings to telehealth platform
- Social/emotional health will be given a higher priority in screenings to address these needs
- Work closely with FQHCs and other providers to help to connect students with identified needs to services
- Risks associated with immunizations related to herd immunity are incredibly important considerations—community partners, including health departments, need to continue to partner to address gap
- Reaching out to parents to encourage parents to access primary care services, including immunizations
- Will need and are planning for additional time to properly clean and sanitize between students

*iFM Community Medicine*

- Operates several school-based health centers in the St. Louis region—one which treats community members—as well as serves as the medical director in several schools
- Flexibility and open-mindedness are critical in thinking about re-entry
- Important to consider how to separate the sick versus the well, especially given demand for immunization and well-visits
  - While many pediatric offices are scheduling well in the morning and sick in the afternoon, this method won’t work well in a school-based health setting in which students need to be seen when they’re already in the building
Many school nurses are located in very small rooms that also prohibit the separation of sick and well students.

- Many decisions are going to have to be made building by building
- Considering how to leverage telehealth to reduce the flow of patients in the space
- Switched to an appointment-only policy for community members at the beginning of the pandemic
  - Helps to manage both potentially symptomatic patients as well as the number of patients in the space at one time
- Worried about the financial sustainability of school-based health programs given that many rely on volume of patients accessing services
  - The Alliance has been advocating for the importance of school-based health services at both the federal and state levels to bring light to the financial viability of programs, especially on the need for bridge funding to cover the developing gap resulting from decreased volume
- Schools nurses are going to be critical to reopening
- Dr. Campbell is available for questions at dcampbell@ifm-stl.org or iFM’s office phone at 314-833-4030. Their website is ifm-stl.org.

Resources

Immunizations

- Flu vaccinations are available through the VFC program for school-based health centers that are not currently offering them.
- Local health departments or federally qualified health centers may also be able to provide vaccines in school settings or offer them in their offices.
- In the St. Louis region, Healthy Kids Express from St. Louis Children’s Hospital is able to provide flu vaccinations for schools who order them in advance through the VFC program. They can be reached at (314) 286-0947 or at Healthykidsexpress@bjc.org

Please find recordings and summaries of previous Listening & Learning Sessions available here.

Show-Me School-Based Health Alliance of Missouri

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