Equity Council Agenda

Zoom Meeting Time: November 18, 2020 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Welcomes & Introductions

- Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Womazetta Jones welcomed the Council members

K-12 School Reopening Strategy Updates | Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green, Rhode Island Department of Education

- Commissioner Infante-Green discussed the measures being taken to prevent COVID-19 spread in the classroom, including installing 6,100 HEPA filters and introducing COVID-19 tests for all students.

COVID-19 Data Update | Julian Rodriguez-Drix, COVID-19 Coordinated Response Lead at the Rhode Island Department of Health

- Black and Latino populations are still overrepresented in COVID-19 case numbers.
- RIDOH’s Health Equity Zones are working with the contact tracing team to provide community members with the resources they need while in quarantine and isolation. For more information on the HEZs, click here.

Higher Education Update | Amy Grzybowski, Executive Director, RI Higher Education & Industry Centers, Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

- The number of COVID-19 cases in higher education institutions is remaining consistent with the overall community case increase, indicating no further major outbreaks.
- Most higher education institutions in Rhode Island will resume remotely after Thanksgiving break.

Community Feedback: What are you hearing from the community? What should the State know?

- A Council member voiced teacher concerns and community fear about COVID-19 outbreaks in schools. A member asked for opportunities to share accurate information about schools in their communities. For more information, visit the RIDE K-12 School Reopening playbook.
- A member voiced community confusion around the testing availability. To check current COVID-19 testing availability, visit https://portal.ri.gov/.

Next Steps

- State Staff will:
  - invite speakers from the COVID-19 Vaccination Subcommittee to a future meeting.
  - report back on additional information about statewide industry COVID-19 case clusters.

Close

- Closing remarks given by Secretary Womazetta Jones