

Incidence of COVID-19 Infection Related to School District Policy

INTRODUCTION

- South Carolina school policies related to COVID-19 evolved over the course of the pandemic.
- The goal of this research is to determine if school policies such as mask requirements and virtual learning decreased the rate of COVID-19 infection in the pediatric population (<18 years old).

METHOD

- School district policies regarding COVID-19 will be obtained from official school websites.
- Weekly cases will be obtained from DHEC.
- These will be compared to determine if these policies significantly decreased COVID-19 infection rates.

Hypothesis

- School district policies which encouraged students to wear masks or transition to remote learning may decrease the rate of COVID-19 infection in the school age population.

Greenville county schools policies over time:

2020

March

12- Field trips and athletic travel is suspended.

13- Gov. McMaster announces statewide school closure, virtual learning begins for the remainder of the school year.

August

24- Students have the option to continue virtual learning or start the 2020-2021 year in person 1 day per week. Students are encouraged to wear masks and social distance

September

8- In person attendance increases in frequency to two days per week.

2021

January

4- In person learning for high school students continues 2 days per week, grades K-8 return in person 5 days per week.

DISCUSSION

- Determining the contribution of school policies on the rates of infection in children will provide a measure by which new plans and procedures can be developed.
- Understanding how policies impact the rate of infection could encourage students and education officials to improve practices in the future.

Future Directions

- The results of this research will show how school policies can impact the rate of COVID-19 infection in the pediatric population.
- This knowledge can lead to improvements in school policy and enhanced pediatric health in upstate SC.

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