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Template-Affiliate Communication to State/Local Officials

Note: Bold content requires personalization

Date

Dear _____,

The **(school nurse affiliate name)** urges appointment of a[n] **(state name)** school nurse leader to advise state guidelines for re-opening procedures for schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance from your office can ensure that school superintendents and administrative teams bring school nurse expertise in communicable disease mitigation to the table as they collaborate with local health departments and education agencies.

(State name) School Nurses bring a wide skill set to student health, communicable disease management and pandemic preparedness.

- **(State name)** School Nurses are licensed by the **(Name state licensing board)**
- **(State name)** School Nurses are uniquely qualified to manage the health and safety of the entire school community¹.
- **(State name)** School Nurses coordinate and provide care for students with specialized health care needs. Children with specialized healthcare needs comprise 25% of the student population² and are at increased risk for COVID-19 complications.
- **(State name)** School Nurses are experienced in population-based health, including illness surveillance and contact tracing.
- Consistent guidelines are needed to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors in school buildings that include:
 - Adequate nurse staffing to screen and triage students, staff and visitors with COVID-19 symptoms
 - Screening procedure guidance for ill and well students/staff
 - Attendance monitoring to promote safe and timely post-COVID19 return to school/work
 - Management of aerosolized procedures that can increase the risk of COVID-19 spread
 - Management of care for suspected COVID-19 cases while protecting the well population from exposure
 - Provision of care to students requiring daily nursing intervention to manage chronic disease states
 - Physical distancing, hand & respiratory hygiene, use of face masks
 - Resources & budget that address personal protective equipment, no touch thermometers, increased first aid supplies for dissemination to classroom staff

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- Isolation of suspected COVID-19 cases that addresses space, ventilation and staffing needs
- Vulnerable population protections for ~~those~~ staff with underlying health conditions or over 60 years of age
- School workplaces must be subject to the same or similar measures required by other essential **(state name)** businesses.
- Safe school re-opening requires adequate time to ensure processes, protocols and resources are in place before students, staff and visitors return to school buildings.

On behalf of **(State school nurse organization name),**

(Sign your name here)

Organization president's Name

Contact information

¹National Association of School Nurses (2016). The role of the 21st century school nurse (Position Statement). Silber Spring, MD: Author
<https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-role>

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). Research Brief: Addressing the Needs of Students with Chronic Health Conditions: Strategies for Schools. https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/chronic_conditions/pdfs/2017_02_15-How_Schools_Can_Students_withCHC_Final_508.pdf

Cc: State Level Official of –
Health & Human Services
Department of Health
Department of Education
Association of School Superintendents
School Board Association
American Academy of Pediatrics Affiliate Chapter
Public Health Nurses Association Affiliate Chapter
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Organization of Nurse Executives