

THE VALUABLE ROLES OF SCHOOL NURSES DURING COVID-19

School nurses are the eyes and ears of public health and primary care. The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) conducted a survey in April 2020 to learn what key activities school nurses were providing during the COVID-19 crisis. School nurses (N=4788) from all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated. The majority (60.7%) of school nurses were included in district discussions regarding COVID-19. Here are some of the critical activities they did to support student health:



STUDENT OUTREACH

54%

Outreach to students at risk



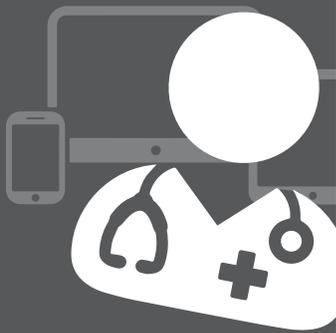
32%

Assisting with deliveries to students—such as medication and food

HEALTH RESOURCE EXPERT

48%

Answering phone calls from parents and community



44%

Virtual office hours

18%

Virtual support groups

17%

Screening of staff or others coming to school

CHRONIC CONDITION MANAGEMENT

72%

Medication and equipment returns to families



28%

Assisting students manage chronic conditions

71%

Working on student healthcare plans

EDUCATION

45%

Educating staff on COVID-19, infection control measures

35%

Disseminating updates from local health departments

30%

Classes/videos on COVID

25%

Teaching and providing staff self-care

20%

Educating community on COVID-19



UPDATE POLICIES AND PLANS

43%

Updating/developing school health policies

41%

Updating/developing plan to return to school



In addition, 78% of school nurses used the time to review their data to see new trends, 26% updated/developed their professional webpage, and 66% participated in trainings to stay current on key health issues. School nurses are now planning for the fall so that they can keep students and staff healthy, safe, and ready to learn.