SELF-DIRECTED MODULE 2

Communicable Disease Resources for Nurses in Oregon Schools

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PRESENTATION TRANSCRIPT

Links to resources are listed at the end of transcript.

[SLIDE 28] RESOURCES

Hello and welcome to Module 2 of School Nurse Role in Communicable Disease Mitigation. This module focuses on resources for nurses working in Oregon schools.

[SLIDE 29] NURSE ROLE IN COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MITIGATION

Our online discussions and previous modules have discussed the fact that the school nurse role is defined by school guidance, Oregon laws, and the context in which the nurse is working. This module will focus on the fact that nurse actions are supported by resources from multiple different sources.

[SLIDE 30] RESOURCES: Health, Education, School Nursing Practice

As a preface to our discussion of resources, we acknowledge that nursing practice in the school setting happens at the intersection of health and education. Nurses in schools provide services for individual student health issues. They also provide health expertise to promote health for all members of the school community. All of the work has the dual focus of not only supporting health, but also of increasing access to education.

There is incredible opportunity in school nursing to see a student, not just survive an acute health issue, but to grow and learn how to manage their health conditions, and for all students to grow and learn in an education environment that supports them, supports their health and wellness so that they can learn and grow and live their best lives.

To capitalize on this incredible opportunity, school nurses need support, information, and guidance from a variety of sources. This presentation will review some of those resources. We’re focusing on resources specific to Oregon, including some from our public health authority, some specific to education, and some specific to professional school nurse practice.

[SLIDE 31] – PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES

School nursing practice is grounded in community and public health. Nurses working in school settings will be drawing on guidance from the Oregon Health Authority. This is especially true during the pandemic, when the role of the school nurse is highlighted in supporting public health. Even during typical years, there are many resources that come from the Oregon Health Authority that will support the school nurse in performing their role.

This includes public health data, so information about chronic diseases, information about communicable diseases, state and local outbreak information. It also includes public health guidance, so our state requirements including required immunizations. The Oregon Health Authority has an Immunization Program office, which supports school immunization programs. It also includes public health tools, so things like posters and infographics and messaging about various health topics, as well as training protocols that are specific to issues that the school nurse will often train school staff.

While OHA’s Lifesaving Treatment Protocols are not focused on communicable disease, they overlap with communicable disease mitigation measures in that, they ensure school staff are prepared to respond when a student develops symptoms, helping to identify when symptoms warrant emergency care measures versus isolation for illness. The majority of Oregon schools don’t have a full-time nurse. In addition to providing assessments and direct care, it falls to school nurses to train unlicensed staff to respond when a student presents with symptoms, including recognizing when symptoms warrant a call to the nurse for further assessment and support.

[SLIDE 32] – PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES 2020-2021

During the 2020-2021 school year, we’re seeing a lot of additional information coming from the Oregon Health Authority, including state-specific data about our pediatric cases, our hospital capacity, and our county metrics. Those metrics have become particularly important in whether or not our schools are open to in-person instruction, and at what level their open to in-person instruction.

Oregon Health Authority is also one of our primary sources for guidance. That guidance includes mandated actions across the entire state. It includes required and recommended actions in the school setting.

As that guidance has been developed in the past year, Oregon Health Authority has included school nurse leaders from Oregon schools in the development process. So this is guidance that applies directly to the work the school nurse is doing. It’s also guidance that the school nurse has a voice in helping to shape, to ensure that it addresses the issues that are occurring in our schools at this time.

In addition to that information and guidance there are also additional tools and resources. There are updated recommendations for how to conduct the trainings that many school nurses provide for school staff. There’s additional education and messaging material, including social media cards and other ways of getting information out to school communities. There are also additional resources for specific types of health support, including additional money and supplies for flu clinics.

[SLIDE 33] SCHOOL RESOURCES 2020-2021; Ready Schools Safe Learners

Oregon Health Authority guidance is applied in specific ways to Oregon schools. The Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education jointly release guidance for required actions during the 2020-2021 year. While the pandemic remains at the forefront of communicable disease concerns, the primary guidance document for Oregon schools is Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance. That guidance focuses on primary mitigation strategies and required actions in the school setting. Section 0 provides information about county metrics used to determine if the spread of coronavirus is low enough for schools to open to in-person instruction. Section 1 provides information about public health protocols. This section includes multiple references to the school nurse role, which were discussed in Module 1.

Linked within the Ready Schools guidance is guidance for Specialized Clinical Procedures. That focuses on school considerations for aerosol-generating procedures and other specialized care that may need additional planning to reduce risks during the pandemic.

There are supplements to this main guidance. One is the document “Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools.” The “Scenarios” document gives information about required exclusions if a person is exposed to a positive case or if a person has certain symptoms. It also provides template letters that could be used to share information with the school community in FERPA-compliant ways.

ODE has released other guidance specific to this year, including a document addressing frequently asked questions about telehealth and providing school nursing service remotely.

Since many schools are also providing childcare during this time, there are a wealth of updates and resources from ODE’s Early Learning Division. Many resources available there apply to both K-12 and pre-K populations. There are some differences in how required actions apply to different age groups, and differences in how districts are expected to provide services to enrolled students versus students in a childcare setting. If a nurse is serving both populations, it will be important to be aware of those differences and work with school leaders to be sure that sites are meeting those health and safety guidelines.

[SLIDE 34] SCHOOL RESOURCES, Communicable Disease Guidance

Before and during the pandemic, OHA and ODE have jointly released guidance for schools that is more broadly focused on communicable disease guidance for all types of communicable disease. This document includes regulations, prevention strategies, recommendations for collaboration, and exclusion guidelines. This is the document a nurse might refer to if a student has a certain symptom, or reports that they’ve been diagnosed with a specific disease. It also includes a sample letter that can be modified to share with the school community, about when to keep a student home from school.

[SLIDE 35] SCHOOL RESOURCES

Other resources on ODE’s site can help nurses navigate practice now and into the future of communicable disease mitigation. The Students & Families bar has a link for Student Records and Privacy, which includes resources for understanding school privacy laws. With very rare exceptions, school nurses practice under FERPA education privacy law. It’s important for a school nurse to understand what information can be shared with public health authorities, and what information can be shared with the school community, and what access parents have to student education records, including health records. Guidance to navigate that can be found in those ODE pages, as well as in the Oregon School Nurse Manual.

The Manual is housed under the Health, Safety & Wellness link, within the School Nurse Pages. There are many resources on those pages to help navigate health issues in the school setting. The Oregon School Nurse Manual is a gateway to a lot of those resources on ODE’s site and beyond. It’s organized by section. Part 5: General Population, is the section that includes guidance and links for health promotion, disease prevention, and acute care in Oregon schools.

Another resource to note on those School Nurse pages is the ODE annual report on Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools. That report gives a snapshot of student need, and available RN and LPN services, from year to year. It provides information about district ratios and state-wide averages, that can be useful in understanding challenges nurses may face in supporting their schools to mitigate communicable disease. The information in that report has help nurses and school leaders to advocate for additional resources to ensure school nurses are available not only for individual student support, which is very important, but also available to share their skills, knowledge, and abilities to promote health and prevent disease for everyone in their school settings.

[SLIDE 36] SCHOOL NURSE RESOURCES, Professional Organizations

Public health and education resources provide a great deal of guidance for the school nurse. Guidance for the licensed professional school nurse also comes from school nurses themselves. The main professional organizations supporting nurses in Oregon schools are the National Association of School Nurses, and the Oregon School Nurses Association.

Public health resources may be created by expert health professionals who don’t have school experience. Education resources may be created by experts in the school setting who have limited health background. School nurse resources are created for nurses in schools, by nurses in schools.

These professional organization websites house resources that help nurse navigate the complex specialty practice that is school nursing. In addition to all the posted material, there are also interactive learning opportunities, like OSNA workshops, online discussions, and in-person and virtual gatherings and conferences.

[SLIDE 37] SCHOOL NURSE RESOURCES 2020-2021

OSNA’s website has a resources bar. Links along that drop-down menu will guide nurses to many of those OHA and ODE resources mentioned earlier, as well as the resources developed for and by nurses themselves. In 2020-2021, the Oregon School Nurses Association created new pages filled with resources specific to COVID-19, many of which are also useful in other outbreak situations.

[SLIDE 38] SCHOOL NURSE RESOURCES – COVID-19 Toolkit

For example, during the pandemic schools must report the local public health authority absenteeism related to COVID-19 and need a way to keep daily logs and track symptoms. Schools across Oregon had different charting systems, different ways that they normally record attendance. OSNA provides guidance for ways existing systems might be modified that align with those health authority requirements. The systems a school has in place to track COVID-19 could become the system a school uses to track an outbreak of measles, or norovirus, or flu. They could improve upon existing systems to help communicate student needs.

There are also tools to address writing and updating a Communicable Disease Management plan, using existing resources as a template. There is support for setting up isolation spaces to keep symptomatic individuals away from the rest of the student body. There are flow charts to assist with symptom screening, and actions to take that align with the Scenarios document. While many of these resources address guidance specific to 2020-2021, the nurse’s role in communicable disease mitigation is a component of practice every year. Across OSNA’s site, there are resources to support the school nurse to continue providing both well care and sick care – to develop health management plans, and work with families navigating special health care needs. Resources for and by nurses can help uphold licensed practice standards and empower nurses to practice to the full extent of their license.

[SLIDE 39] SCHOOL NURSE ROLE IN COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MITIGATION

There are many challenges related to communicable disease mitigation in schools settings. This year, schools across Oregon are changing the way care is provided with greater focus on preventing the spread of disease. During the pandemic and beyond, as specific practices are considered, available resources will not address every scenario in every school. School nurses may seek evidence to determine what to do in a given situation, and how school policies should be revised to address specific risks. With that in mind, we now move on to discuss considering evidence that may be used to inform those nurse practice decisions.

**LINKS**

Communicable Disease Resources for Nurses in Oregon Schools

**Public Health Data**

* [Acute and Communicable Disease](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/Pages/index.aspx) – links to Disease Reporting, Emerging Infections, Foodborne Disease, and more
* [Data and Statistics](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DATASTATISTICS/Pages/index.aspx) – links to ALERT Immunization Registry, COVID-19 Data Dashboard, Communicable Disease Weekly and Monthly Reports, and more

**Public Health Guidance**

* [Oregon Immunization Program](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/vaccinesimmunization/gettingimmunized/pages/school.aspx) – School and Childcare Immunization resources
* [Mask and face-covering requirements](https://govstatus.egov.com/or-oha-face-coverings) during the pandemic
* [Prevention and Wellness](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/Pages/index.aspx) pages – links to Vaccines and Immunization, Flu Prevention, Oral Health, STD Prevention, and more.

**Public Health Tools**

* [Lifesaving Treatment Protocols](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ProviderPartnerResources/EMSTraumaSystems/Pages/epi-protocol-training.aspx) – includes slides for Severe Allergic Response (Epinephrine), Hypoglycemia (Glucagon), and other trainings to help school staff distinguish emergent symptoms from non-emergent symptoms of illness.
* [Prevent the Flu](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/fluprevention/Pages/index.aspx) pages – School and Child Care Influenza Outbreak Detection and Management; Flu Fact Sheet; Vaccine Safety pages
* Posters, infographics, messaging examples
* “School Bus Flyer” about required immunizations on [this page](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/GETTINGIMMUNIZED/Pages/SchRequiredImm.aspx)
* “[Clean hands save lives](https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2320b.pdf)” poster from [this page](https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19) (scroll down to “signage”)
* “What to Expect” contact tracing information posters on [this page](https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-Contact-Collaborative)
* [COVID-19 Social Media Cards](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ERD/Pages/COVID-19-Social-Cards.aspx)

**School resources**

ODE/OHA [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance for 2020-2021](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Planning-for-the-2020-21-School-Year.aspx)

OHA/ODE [Communicable Disease Guidance for Schools](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/documents/commdisease.pdf)

[Oregon School Nurse Manual](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/oregonschnursemanual.pdf)

ODE [Student Records and Privacy](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/Pages/Student-Records-and-Privacy.aspx)

ODE Health, Safety & Wellness – [School Nurse Pages](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/School-Nurses.aspx)

ODE [School Nurse Annual Report](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/School-Nurses-Annual-Report.aspx)

ODE [Frequently Asked Questions: School Nurse Telehealth](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/Documents/School%20Nurse%20Telehealth%204-10-20.pdf)

ODE [Early Learning Division](https://oregonearlylearning.com/)

**Professional school nursing resources**

[NASN Home page](https://www.nasn.org/home)

[NASN e-learning](https://www.nasn.org/programs/elearning)

[NASN COVID-19 Resources](https://www.nasn.org/nasn/nasn-resources/practice-topics/covid19)

[OSNA Home page](https://www.oregonschoolnurses.org/home)

[OSNA Resource Links](https://www.oregonschoolnurses.org/resources/resource-links) – includes Framework guidance for in-person and remote services; State Board of Nursing and Oregon Nurse Practice Act (Division 45 and Division 47); individualized health plans; student health conditions and more

[OSNA COVID-19 Resources](https://www.oregonschoolnurses.org/resources/covid-19-resources) – includes links to guidance from OHA, CDC, ODE, and WHO; general resources for handwashing, countering racism, family resources and social/emotional support

[OSNA COVID-19 Toolkit](https://www.oregonschoolnurses.org/resources/covid-19-toolkit) – includes tools for writing Communicable Disease Management plans; Cohort tracking; using Google spreadsheets, forms, or paper tracking; Symptom screening; and more.