
Vermont State School Nurse Town Meeting #4

— What School Nurses Are Doing —
(in no particular order)
April 23, 2020

A Message from the Vermont Department of Health

- We can't predict what the near future will hold, but we will continue to assess summer and fall activities and will communicate updates and changes as the situation evolves.
- What gradual reopening will look like is not yet fully clear, but it will likely mean that summer/fall group activities may not look like they did before.
- The Health Department's focus remains on protecting the health and well-being of all the citizens of Vermont, with a special focus on ensuring health among those who are at higher risk.
- The Health Department will continue testing and contact tracing to find new cases and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

~ **Dr. Breena Holmes — Director, Division of Maternal and Child Health**

For updated public health information visit: <https://healthvermont.gov/covid19>

For updated COVID-19 recovery information visit: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>

Addison Central School District

- Coordinating a program to distribute grocery staples weekly to families in need
- Provide consultation to our daily meals program
- Nurse leader serves on district COVID emergency response team
- Meet as a group weekly
- Meet as a group weekly with our DOH school nurse liaison, Christina Dean
- Serve on Educational Support Teams and meet weekly or more
- Work with and meet regularly with our school social-emotional teams
- Nurse Leader working with district-wide social emotional team, communicating as needed with superintendents/administrators
- Some nurses have online office hours and meet with students
- Checking in with families/students as needed
- Providing resources and info for our weekly district newsletters
- Communicating resources and info to students, staff and families through different avenues-direct emails, district website, newsletters
- Future plans: updating necessary protocols (we have created a rubric to see where we're at-what is updated, what needs review, what things do we need protocols for and don't have them yet) and updating our individual school health office websites
- Our district chose to not provide childcare and instead has the option to utilize and refer to the established childcare provided in nearby Mt.Abraham Unified School District

Hartford School District

- Monitoring student attendance and engagement in academic classes
- Contacting students who are absent/not engaging
- Contacting students/parents of students with medical conditions
- Contacting students with high risk for social/emotional/mental health conditions
- Meeting twice weekly with administration/guidance/mental health provider
- Meeting twice weekly with district school nurses
- Meeting monthly with area Child Protection Team
- Meeting weekly with student transition team
- Planning with administration/guidance for upcoming school year
- Continuing education webinars
- Contacting staff members regularly about self-care/morale
- Serving on hiring committees for vacant school positions

Lamoille North Unified Modified Supervisory Union/ Lamoille North Supervisory Union

- Inventory and return of medicines/rescue medications/medical supplies
- Section 504/high risk/ student check ins/contacts
- Ongoing education and trainings
- Volunteering: Food services, Medical Corps/American Red Cross
- Review of medical updates CDC/Vermont Department of Health/AOE-Liaison with administration
- Re-entry planning
 - District inventory of PPE
 - Policy and procedure reviews
 - District wide use of on-line medical forms/nursing documentation
 - Standing orders/ordering of Epipens
- Attending meetings
 - Weekly district nurse meetings, faculty meetings, morning school announcements, closing day meetings/community (family and student meetings), meetings weekly with guidance (Intervention Team)/SRO/special educators
- Networking/Community Outreach
 - VSSNA/NASN/Local school nurses/Community forums/School Website Health Blogs

Windham Southeast Supervisory Union

- Volunteer food distribution
- Health screening at child care for essential workers
- Weekly district RN zoom meetings
- Weekly VSSNA district rep zoom meetings
- Weekly COVID-19 Town Hall meetings
- Weekly school staff meetings
- Office/clinic hours (available for students/staff/families by phone or video)
- Case Management - weekly check ins with families
- 504 and IEP committee zoom meetings
- Volunteer 211 callbacks (Medical Reserve Corp)
- Mask making for community members
- Emailed Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club to advocate for students to have contact with adults other than school staff, encouraging the club to provide online activities for members.
- Offering google classrooms for middle school students as a support/connection forum doing Mindful Monday's/Wellness Wednesday's.
- Working with leadership students to organize virtual spirit week and other ideas will come from that group.

Essex Westford School District

- Childcare for Essential Employees
 - Nurses worked with the director of the Childcare for Essential employee program to provide continual nursing consultation, which included establishing health processes and health guidelines tailored to COVID-19.
 - Nurses continually check in and monitor the program, updating their information and consulting for any VDH changes, such as masks and eye protection
- Nutritional Services
 - Nurses took charge of ensuring volunteers were properly vetted for the meal distribution process. Worked with managers to create clean distribution processes specifically tailored to limiting COVID-19 transmission.
 - Nurses regularly volunteer at all food distribution sites and provide consultation and family check-ins.
 - Nurses created a slide deck for all nutrition volunteers to view and learn prior to their work during the state of emergency/COVID-19 environment.
- Education
 - Nurses gave multiple in- person PPE demonstrations and education of proper technique for food service, childcare, IT, and critical office staff.
 - Nurses created a slide deck and video that emphasizes proper use of PPE, answers questions on transmission of illness, and parameters for how to enter and exit the building safely. This was distributed to all staff.
 - Education given to district security staff for proper PPE use throughout all buildings.

Essex Westford School District (continued)

- Building Access Committee
 - Nurses appointed to the EWSD Building Access Committee charged with assessing if a teacher access plan was appropriate, the method of determining critical needs, timing etc. This committee was composed of top leadership, admin, and nursing and met multiple times before establishing final procedures.
 - Nurses established a process for accessing the school building and checking in. Each building nurse established a process tailored to their school in consultation with administration.
 - Nurses created guidelines for CFO to use with critical business function re-entry. Combined with zoom meetings to educate office staff on safe use of PPE and social distance within an office setting.
 - Nurses are working with library staff to safely coordinate a May book exchange.
- IT Department
 - Nurses established a “Clean IT” set of guidelines on how to prepare tech materials for distribution
 - Nurses established a process for IT distribution that adheres to social distance and infectious disease guidelines.
 - Nurses managed the flow of IT distribution for chrome books including greeting parents and informing them of clean procedures.
 - Nurses are working at the twice weekly IT depot exchanges to monitor clean distribution and support IT staff.

Essex Westford School District (continued)

- Health and Wellness
 - Nurses continue to collaborate with guidance counselors to support students.
 - Nurses continue to collaborate with teachers to support students
 - Nurses have virtual student check-ins.
 - Nurses reach out to any family that indicates to their teacher or guidance counselor that they are unable to do work because they are sick.
 - Continual support of families who identify they have COVID -19 in their house/family
 - Nurses participate in virtual class meetings.
 - Nurses create virtual lessons for wellness activities for students and/or post information on their websites.
 - Nurses reach out and follow up with any district staff who have wellness concerns.
 - Nurses promote health and wellness with activities such as Health and Wellness Bingo.
- Miscellaneous
 - District handbook development
 - Continue to attend and write up CPT meetings
 - Continued to participate on hiring committees via zoom
 - Check in with 504 families
 - Made and provided homemade masks for children and adults in the daycare and nutrition programs
 - Worked with PTO to obtain donations to share with our families who are struggling financially

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union

- District nurse group weekly Zoom meetings
- One nurse sits on the district COVID task force committee with the superintendent as the district nurse representative. As a group, we then helped to formulate what COVID communication was sent home to families initially and helped to devise a safety plan for staff re-entering the building (making updates as needed.)
- We each work closely with our guidance counselors, school based clinicians, and student support staff to keep in communication with families that are at high risk for abuse and/or neglect.
- One of our nurses is overseeing all meals preparation and distribution. Her school is the central location for this in our district. With the ongoing additions to the list of families requesting meals, we have to open a second site for meal prep and the nurse from that school is now acting as a safety advisor for that site.
- Remaining current with up to date medical guidance and state specific guidance/requirements.
- Sharing new guidelines with staff such as facemasks.

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (continued)

- Sitting in on video lessons or therapy sessions for the Spec. Ed. dept as needed for 1:1 needs (as the required second staff member.) This is often for students that may have also had a medical or social need that we were already familiar with.
- Returning medications to students' homes.
- Keeping current with other concerns such as the recent EpiPen recall and informing families.
- Updating 504's that we case-manage as required by the AOE.
- Updating records, such as data entry of medical conditions or required screenings.

Washington Central Unified Union SD

- Some of our schools are open to staff and some are not, which variably affects our ability to do certain tasks during the shutdown.
- Fortunately we use SNAP in the cloud , so we are able to document student contacts and other activities directly in SNAP from home. SNAP has created a resource for Health Surveillance during Covid-19 <https://www.promedsoftware.com/covid19>.
- Weekly Zoom Meetings with district nurses, offering a unique opportunity to meet as a group on a regular basis. (We hope this will continue as school opens).
- Weekly Zoom meetings with Principal, Guidance Counselor and Behavior coach to go over any student needs which arise and planning a response.
- Attending weekly Zoom staff meetings, option of joining with different staff groups in meetings as well as joining in individual class meetings to have contact with the general population of students.
- Virtual IEP meetings for students with health needs
- Phone contact with students specifically who have health issues and generally in response to staff, administrative requests.
- Virtual Health classes and student groups

Washington Central Unified Union SD (continued)

- Acting as Staff Resource for any health related questions.
- Reaching out to staff with information on Self-Care.
- Health update information sent out in Weekly family newsletters and setting up and maintaining the Health Office Page in the Covid-19 Remote Learning Site.
- Updating/ creating a Health Office Web Page.
- Delivering daily meals to students via school buses - creates an opportunity to have visual contact with some students and families.
- Act as a resource to school staff who are currently coming into the school building which are open for proper use of PPE in their interactions with other staff and with families who are picking up or dropping off papers, books and computers.
- Teaching own homebound children
- As time goes on may work on updating records, 504's and health plans, immunization records
- Update yearly forms
- SNAP training
- Webinars on a variety of topics

St. Johnsbury

St. Johnsbury School Nurse practice during school closure for COVID-19 as aligned with the Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice.

Standards of Practice

- Completed Essential School Health Services Application.

Care Coordination

- Daily phone calls to the Pediatric Care Coordinator to collaborate on students who are experiencing physical and mental health issues.
- Daily phone calls between district nurses to coordinate efforts.
- Participate in grade level team meetings to communicate about student mental and physical health challenges.
- Participate in classroom Zoom meetings when invited to connect with students.
- Phone calls to parents to coordinate medication return.
- Participate in IEP meetings.

St. Johnsbury (continued)

Leadership

- Schedule and facilitate weekly Healthy Schools meetings to address school health and student health issues.
- Provide guidance to the administrative team around Food Service employee safety related to prevention of COVID-19 transmission.
- Participate in VSSNA planning for School Nurse Town Meetings.

Quality Improvement

- Participate in on-line learning opportunities including School Nurse Town Meetings.

Community/Public Health

- Health Services Website development.
- Volunteered for Vermont Medical Reserve Corp.
- Made and distributed cloth masks to Food Service employees and volunteers.

Maplerun School District

- Packing the breakfast/lunch meals with our admin/logistic staff and the Abbey group twice a week.
- Attending weekly staff, alternative programs and MTSS via Zoom. Attended Town Hall Meetings
- As needed communication with all students with chronic medical conditions and/or medication needs whom we usually provide regular nursing interventions for at school. Returned medications
- Available for 504/IEP meetings .
- Creating health related or SEL materials for interactive UA bingo boards for remote learning-one K-3 bingo board and one 4-8 bingo board.
- Attending morning meetings for classes that have some of our students with chronic medical conditions or frequent fliers to the nurses' office.
- Ongoing data entry relating to immunizations, screenings etc.

Maplerun School District (continued)

- Our building is open 1030-100 daily but staff entrance must be confirmed with admin-common sense prevails-stick to only needed areas, social distancing, out as quick as possible etc.
- Checked in with students on health 504s
- A couple of weeks ago there was sign up for staff to come in to get supplies for 15 minutes with staggered times. The staff had to wash hands and put gloves on when entering the building. If staff need to enter the building now, they have to contact the administration and maintenance staff to let them in. There are masks and gloves available at the entrance.

Mill River Unified Union School District

- Food distribution for all students to age 18 within the district. meals for pickup at the high school twice a week that provides 5 days of breakfast and lunch.
- Ongoing meetings with guidance, counseling, psychologist and nursing for Social, Emotional, and Health Services for all students in the district. Providing community resources for students/families and frequent ongoing "check-ins" with students. Referring students to staff as needs arise within the team.
- Ongoing meetings with district administration on guidance recommendations for staff entering/working in buildings. Providing online trainings for proper PPE use.
- Procedure development with district administration in regards to re-entry of schools/redesign projects with safe practice guidelines (with understanding that recommendations are ongoing/changing).
- Procedure and Policy development

Mill River Unified Union School District (continued)

- 504 virtual meetings, EST meetings (if included/needed), IEP meetings (when needed)-Medication redistribution
- Updating district forms
- Preparing ongoing communication to the community to be distributed by administration in weekly emails.
- Ongoing contact with students/families
- Preparing communication to families of incoming Pre-K, K, and 7th graders.
- Ongoing EHR updating

Arlington School District

- Attending Arlington Nursing Association's emergency preparedness meetings
- LPN serves as head of COVID19 relief team for Arlington Nursing Association
- Contacting parents of students taking medication for chronic conditions to ensure that they aren't having issues paying for medications
- Volunteering to deliver school breakfast/lunches
- Volunteering for VT Foodbank pick up
- Sewing cloth masks for donation
- Attending Weekly School district administration meeting and Weekly high school SOS meeting
- Contacting at risk students by phone
- Reviewing old policies and developing new policies

Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union

1. Student and family support

- Letter to families from all district nurses as one voice with how we can support them during this time (some of us have Google voice numbers as a “hotline”)
- Attending IEP meetings
- Check-in phone calls with students (physical or emotional needs)
- Continuing health classes (planning, delivering online classes, making paper lessons for those without reliable internet)

2. School

- Developing protocols for proper hygiene (face covering, hand washing, distancing)
- Coordinating with outside agencies to get face coverings and gloves
- Collaborating with faculty and admin regarding student needs
- Supporting paras and other essential workers (advocacy support, guidance with new protocols)
- Attending weekly SU meetings, nurse meetings, unified arts meetings
- Entering immunizations into SNAP
- Working on our school protocols and webpage

Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union (continued)

3. Professional development/ COVID information

- Communicating weekly with DOH School Nurse Liaison
- Professional development (webinars, CE credits, virtual conferences, etc.)
- Daily review of CDC, DOH, AOE, WHO for updated information regarding COVID status and epidemiology, ever-changing orders

4. Community

- Working with diaper bank, food pantries, CSA and other organizations to support families
- Delivering food and packets to families
- Social media outreach (sharing information from CDC, VDH, etc.)

Burlington School District

Standards of Practice

- Host virtual office hours daily for consultation with students, families, and staff
- Awareness of EO 01-20, §§ 15 & 16, Governor Scott has ordered relaxed nursing regulations
- Learn about Vermont's Crisis Standards of Care Plan

Care Coordination

- Meeting with district student support professionals, e.g. school counselors, social workers to address social, emotional, and community needs:
- Coordinate and conduct student -family check-ins based on family preferences and student safety
- Align messages from nurses, counselors and teachers
- Providing information on how COVID-19 impacts students with underlying chronic conditions.
- Attend webinars, hospital grand rounds, and other professional development on Covid-19 to enhance knowledge and better guide best practice for families and school district.
- Updating Individual Healthcare Plans, Emergency Action Plans, 504s, and/or IEP health goals
- Attend 504 and IEP meetings
- Attend School Safety Meetings

Burlington School District (continued)

Leadership

- Review and update school health policies, procedures, processes in collaboration with LEA nurse colleagues
- Review and update forms for next school year
- Participation in professional development and learning activities
- Attend District Safety Meetings
- Volunteer on State School Nurse Association Committees
- Attend State School Nurse Town Meetings
- Register and prepare for the National School Nurse Certification Exam
- Attend school staff meetings, safety meetings and classroom daily circle meetings
- Biweekly District Nurse Meetings on Google Hangout to review and polish policies and procedures

Burlington School District (continued)

Quality Improvement

- Continue documenting nursing activities, maintaining confidentiality when off-site
- Prepare for presenting your annual report to your school board
- Compare data from last school year to this school year - where can we improve
- Review previous documentation to identify areas to improve
- Review school health data, identify opportunities and tools to ensure future data collection meets needs of school community (i.e work with IT to ensure the collection questions are worded correctly according to School Nurse State Manual).
- Create a Plan for Vision & hearing screening data for priority action during recovery phase
- Collect data for the National School Health Data Set: Every Student Counts! Data Points Worksheet for 2019-20 and email the information to webmaster@vssna.org
- Enter data for new students coming in next school year (PreK/Kindergarten)

Burlington School District (continued)

Community/Public Health

- Collaborating with your local health department and with school leadership to provide culturally agile messages appropriate to age, language, and demographics
- Providing training and education for students, staff, and families, e.g. stay home when ill, hand washing, respiratory hygiene, social distancing practices, staying home-staying safe.
- Providing support and training for staff working in school childcare programs for essential workers
- Identifying students/groups within the school community who may be disproportionately impacted by current crisis to develop solutions to improve health equity
- Offering distance learning to students about COVID-19 or other health related topics
- Health check-ins daily - Remote on-call for childcare center
- Infectious disease prevention
- Management of routine health needs

Milton Town School District

- At Milton Town School District the nurses meet weekly to discuss activities to be doing during work time. We are reviewing our policies and developing some protocols. Individually, we reach out to some students (students with health conditions, students who struggle with anxiety, students whose parents are in need of support, and at risk students).
- We are also seeking out professional development activities and keeping ourselves informed of Covid-19 developments.
- Milton has a Wellness Blog on our website. It's done in collaboration with guidance and behavior and PE. Each day is a different department. So, for example, nursing contributes an entry once a week on our specific day.
- One of our nurses was doing morning announcements for Middle school. She has continued to do morning announcements on Facebook. She announces the day, the meal scheduled to be delivered, the joke of the day, and any other tidbits that need to be shared. It can be viewed on Milton Community Friends page.

Kingdom East School District

- Phone calls to ill staff members and families
- Assist with meal deliveries
- Meet twice a week via zoom
- Plan to work on: procedures and health policies
- Determine tracking of COVID=19 symptoms
- School nurse page for district website

Springfield School District

- Participating in Scheduled Meetings - Staff, Behavior, Admin. Meetings (Supporting Staff)
- Following up with students (phone/google hangouts) regarding medical/psychosocial Issues, learning)
- Returning medications to students
- Weekly District Nurse Meetings
- 504's
- Calling At risk families (determined with teams)
- Following up on vision and hearing referrals
- Continuing Education
- Researching COVID-19--Keeping updated (Checking VT Dept. of Health and CDC sites, NASN site, VSSNA site and links, Participating in VSSNA Town Halls
- Viewing Governor Scott's Weekly Press Releases

Proctor Jr Sr HS

- Teacher/staff instruction on handwashing (prior to March 17)
- Staff meeting discussion of information/pathophysiology/transmission of Coronavirus as known prior to March 17
- Contact parents of students with meds (prior to March 17)
- Return meds for parents who asked
- Demonstration/lesson on use of face coverings/masks for staff doing food program (2)
- Provided PPE to janitorial staff/staff doing food program from office supply
- Donated rest of PPE supply to local clinic
- Contact with each student on IHP/medical 504 every other week via phone or email
- Contact with “frequent fliers” every other week via phone or email
- Weekly student support team meeting, Weekly middle school team meeting, Weekly staff meeting
- Daily contact with specific students as “attendance check”
- Attendance at Vermont State School Nurse Association weekly meetings
- Attending State Nurse’s Town Hall meetings weekly or watch webinar later
- Reading Health Advisories and HealthVermont.org
- Follow Pediatric Grand round webinars
- Follow NASN webinars and information re Coronavirus and Data collection
- Starting conversation with principal about return to school protocols,
- Review protocol for safe entry to school/return to school for staff from another district

WVS/MSES

- Working on new handwashing song with another teacher
- Returned all school medications
- Working with principals/guidance counselor for outreach to students not engaging in distance learning
- Called list of families not participating in meal distribution for outreach
- Entering demographic and health information into SNAP program
- Participating in weekly staff meetings
- Volunteering to take 211 calls one time per week
- Sent email to VT Department of Health(Allsion Reagan) to volunteer to do contact tracing
- Reading HAN Alerts and distributing as needed
- Participating in classrooms and video chatting with students
- Email/outreach to frequent flyers

PrES

- Student, Teacher/staff instruction on handwashing (prior to March 17)
- Contact parents of students with daily meds and return (prior to March 17)
- Contact parents of students with Inhalers/Epi-pens at school and offered two different pickup times at school.
- Working with principals/guidance counselor for outreach to students not engaging in distance learning
- Entering health information into SNAP program.
- Participating in weekly Student CARES meeting.
- Participating in weekly special services meeting
- Attending classroom morning meetings when available
- Helped facilitate Health Education and Specials Choice Board
- District Representative for Vermont State School Nurse Association and attending weekly meetings
- Attending State Nurse's Town Hall meetings weekly
- Reading Health Advisories and HealthVermont.org