

For Immediate Release

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NASN Releases Safer Return to School Statement

Silver Spring, MD – Today, the National Association of School Nurses has released the following statement in support of a path forward for a safer reopening of America’s schools.

NASN promotes a decision-making process for a safer return to in-person learning that is based on accurate public health data at the national, state and local levels. **The safety of students and staff must take priority in this decision-making.** A safer return to schools, one in which students, families and staff will feel confident, requires that prior to a return to in-person learning, schools develop and implement infectious disease readiness and emergency management procedures for students and staff, based on current public health guidance and in which sufficient funding is allocated for the implementation of sanitation and safety protocols, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and the hiring/retention of school nurses to coordinate health and safety procedures.

“America’s school nurses, just like America’s teachers, students and parents want to return to school. Children want to see their friends, teachers want to see their students, and nurses want to reintegrate with their school communities. However, none of that is possible without robust federal investment, and reliance on accurate public health data” said NASN President Laurie G. Combe, MN, RN, NCSN. “NASN, along with other health and education leaders, sent a letter to Senate leaders demanding they appropriately fund any return-to-school plan requesting a minimum of \$208 billion, and provide maximum flexibility for school districts and schools to prioritize investments that will enable environments where students are able to learn and students and staff are healthy and safe.”

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About NASN

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, first organized in 1968 and incorporated in 1977, representing school nurses exclusively. NASN has more than 17,000 members and 50 affiliates, including the District of Columbia and overseas school nurses. The mission of NASN is to optimize student health and learning by advancing the practice of school nursing. Please visit us at www.nasn.org.