National Association of School Nurses

1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 925
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
866-627-6767 (phone)
301-585-1791 (fax)
nasn@nasn.org (email)
www.nasn.org

December 3, 2020

Submitted electronically via:
https://www.regulations.gov

Docket No. CDC-2020-0121
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Jose Romero, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-H24-8
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

RE: Comments for the December 1, 2020 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Emergency Meeting, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Dr. Romero:

School nurses are essential to safely reopen in person education in U.S. schools. School nurse responsibilities during the pandemic include extended contact with suspected cases to assess for symptoms of COVID-19, supervise isolation of COVID-19 cases, and administer rapid testing. These pandemic-related responsibilities are above and beyond the core contributions of school nurses; they traditionally address student health and mental health issues to support learning. As frontline community healthcare providers, school nurses lead teams that provide health services as well as coordinating disease prevention for students and staff. As such, school nurses must be included in priority groups for receiving the first round of COVID-19 vaccine.

In order to minimize spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open, school staff, including teachers, specialized instructional support personnel (school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, school social workers, physical and occupational therapists), aides, food service and custodial workers, and principals need to be considered as essential groups for access to COVID-19 vaccination.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact me at dmazyck@nasn.org.

Sincerely,

Donna Mazyck
Donna Mazyck
Executive Director