The Work New Jersey Certified School Nurses are continuing to do in their role to support students and staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Note: This document is NOT a substitute for nursing judgment and does not dictate an exclusive course of action. State and district laws and policies should be followed.

COVID-19 is a public health concern, and as the eyes and ears of public health, school nurses understand this in the context of 21st century school nursing. Here are some of the activities our state school nurses have been doing while schools are closed.

- Monitor NJDOH, NJDOE, & CDC websites for updates on COVID-19
- Check, review, & utilize resources from NASN website for school nurse updates on COVID-19
- Maintain contact with school administrators, staff, families, & students
- Maintain contact with local health departments for surveillance
- Collaborate with school physician
- Be available via phone during normal school hours or as directed by administration
- Check office phone messages and email daily and respond as appropriate
- Attend distance meetings & video conferences as needed ie: 504, IEP, I&RS
- Assist with tracking student attendance
- Provide resources, including websites, for physical and mental health for students and staff
- Collaborate with school counselors and child study team and share concerns about at-risk students
- Prepare and distribute supplementary health lessons for teachers focusing on prevention of communicable disease, COVID 19 virus, and proper respiratory hygiene
- Stay connected to school and students by participating in distance learning which may include video greetings, podcasts, health tip of the week, etc.
- Coordinate with district staff as needed for students eligible for free/reduced lunch to continue to receive food during school closure
- Collaborate with office staff as needed with regard to insurance for students
- Reach out to families as needed
- Attend online training and webinars and record for professional development
- Write and/or update Individual Healthcare Plans, 504 Plans, and Medical Summaries for Child Study Team
- Organize Response to Intervention (RTI) files and communicate with case coordinators on the status of the students they are monitoring
- Follow up on screening referrals
- Review electronic student records
- Complete monthly reports
- Update policies and procedures as necessary
- Review all new incoming students’ paperwork/vaccinations/physicals
- Assess delinquent immunizations /missing physical exams
- Prepare notification letters to parents
- Review and update student/family contact information
- Coordinate and/or deliver student medications to families
- Revise staff trainings as needed (epinephrine, glucagon, and hydrocortisone designee training)
- Track staff illness during closure and report to local health department
- Volunteer at COVID-19 testing sites or for other nursing positions with superintendent permission if during school hours
- School nurses who are also school of nursing faculty can arrange for student nurses to staff sites
- Share experiences with school nurse colleagues
- Collaborate with nurse colleagues working in other disciplines
- Check Inventory school health supplies for return to school, order PPE masks, gloves, etc, donations to of any PPE should be approved by local superintendent
- Collaborate with local health department and administration to develop a plan for return
- Practice self-care (Important as school nurses will be needed upon return to school)

Re-entry planning ideas should include:

- School nurses need to be on the planning team
- Re-writing guidelines for possible exclusion for returning to school, collaborate with school physician
- Case management of those that will need continues home instruction for lingering illness
- Screening and surveillance of students and staff for signs of illness including CoVID-19
- Management of PPE for those who will develop illness in school
- Monitor NJ DOH and CDC websites for updates on COVID -19
- Check the NASN website for school nurse updates on COVID-19