



**New Hampshire  
School Nurses' Association**  
**Leading ~ Advocating ~ Educating**

June 8, 2020

Dear Governor Sununu, Christine Brennan, Patricia Tilley, Executive Council;

In 2019, the NH Legislature passed a law that requires the NH Department of Education to hire a School Nurse Consultant to provide coordination, technical support, and assistance to guide school nurses and administrative personnel responsible for student health and wellness (RSA 21-N:6-a). The importance of filling this position to coordinate care across the state could not be of greater priority than it is at this time, as we work to return our students and teachers to school this fall.

School nurses will have a key role in returning students and teachers to school safely, and to maintaining the health of the school community. School nurses will:

- Screen students and staff for COVID 19
- Manage students with symptoms, isolating and providing care for these students until they are picked up from school.
- Educate teachers, administration, students and parents on hygiene practices to prevent COVID 19, including the use of PPE, best handwashing practices, how to quarantine and self-isolate if ill.

School nurses have the knowledge and skills to coordinate health care for COVID 19, under DHHS and DOE guidance. School nurses across NH are planning ahead, and are ready to assist with safely bringing our students back to school. The most essential resource school nurses need at this time is a School Nurse Coordinator in the Department of Education. The need for a school nurse coordinator has increased exponentially over time, as the New Hampshire school nurse role has become more complex, including the care of chronic health conditions, increasing behavioral health needs, students with food insecurity and hygiene needs. The need for a school nurse coordinator is even more critical during the COVID 19 crisis, as we formulate health office plans to coordinate the prevention and management of COVID 19 in school. One example of a critical question that needs guidance: How to manage and isolate/support a student who has symptoms of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome- what are best practices in the school setting?

Please hire a School Nurse Coordinator now, so we have this valuable support person in place to guide health office on COVID 19 management in schools this fall.

Sincerely,

Kathy Barth BSN, RN, NCSN  
President NHSNA