

During and leading up to the shutdown of schools due to COVID-19 had major changes on what school nurses were having to do. A lot of nurses were having to constantly research the latest data pertaining to COVID and relaying the information to the school board on what to do. A lot of the school nurses before everything was shut down had a major role in helping decide how schools would continue which for most meant shutting down. After the eventual shutdown, school nurses then had that same role of gathering and providing relevant data. This involved telling the school board, teachers, and even the students. The biggest challenge for this was that they had to do this mostly virtually while dealing with their own stuff at home. They had to deal with the pandemic like everyone else while trying to ensure everyone's safety.

School nurses throughout the whole pandemic have had to play a major role in educating everyone on the best practices when dealing with COVID. Another challenge they face is ensuring everyone at the school is safe once everyone can return. This includes getting the necessary PPE to protect themselves when dealing with potential COVID cases. This is also hard because children sometimes don't have the same signs and symptoms as adults making it a little harder to tell. Also, schools have children that are more susceptible to COVID than others like immunocompromised and children with other conditions. Trying to find ways to protect these children is one of the hardest things school nurses have to come up with.

Another role some school nurses have is helping with their community. This involves teaching, helping on the front line, and helping with testing. This can be hard because they are having to transition to another area and are not in their usual field. Some are also having to ensure that there is a safe distribution of materials to children still at home and coordinating

safe food distribution to the kids that need it. Continual learning is important to these kids and school nurses are helping ensure that this is done safely.