

The role of the school nurse is one that has often been overlooked. Their daily duties can range from putting on Band-Aids, giving daily medications, assessing signs and symptoms, giving emotional support, to filing paperwork. This year, they're expected to do all of that and much more.

Exactly one year ago we were told Texas would shut down to help stop the spread of the spread of COVID-19. All non-essential personnel would work from home and students would be sent home to do online learning. With best efforts, school employees have tried to get students back into the classroom quickly but also safely. School admin closely rely on the school nurse, when it comes to safety precautions and assuring the school is ready for the students return.

Because most schools only have one school nurse (if they have one at all), this can be a big task for one person. It's important they are able to come up with a plan to delegate such as rearranging furniture 6 feet apart or making hall signs to remind students to have their masks on, etc. Although it's important to keep in mind that teachers are busy making online lectures also so it may be hard to recruit more hands.

While I think it is important to have children in schools, it's also important to take into account how it will affect the community. Even though COVID may not be as life threatening to children, as it is to adults and the elderly, they are still carriers and can pass it on to each other and to parents and grandparents. Since it's not our place to make the call on if schools should be opened or not, educating the students on proper PPE and handwashing should be vital. School nurses will continue to have important and crucial roles in the school to inform families, students, and even other faculty members of evidence-based practice (Betz, 2020).