

Covid-19 and Schools

After reading the articles regarding Covid-19 and our school nurses I realize there is more to our school nurses' jobs than I had realized. Our nurses in our school systems face even more challenges than before due to this pandemic. There are more things for our nurses to think about besides just assessing our kids and deciding when to call parents. One challenge that they now face is contact tracing when a child has tested positive. This adds a lot to the nurse's plate. One other challenge that I hadn't thought of before reading these articles was the PPE that the nurses must wear now due to Covid and the fact that some elementary aged children might be frightened. It is important that children at school feel safe and comfortable with going to the school nurse with their problems and I can see where them having to wear gowns, masks, and gloves would be frightening for them. Another new challenge for our school nurses is since the Covid pandemic hit last year is the issue of mental issues in kids. Finishing out the last school year online added an extra 2 ½ months of time that the children were home. Not being able to be at school with their friends and have that interaction with peers is tough on kids. Having four kids of my own I know that routine and being around their friends at school is something they need for social and mental health. Finding resources for the mental health issues from this pandemic is a big task for our school nurses who see these kids' day in and day out. Even though the past year was one of many challenges and uncertainty it was very encouraging to see the people come together to help each other out. I have a neighbor that is an RN that dropped everything and headed to New York last May to help out Covid Units there.

I know people who took meals to people in need. The list goes on and on. I am hopeful that as the days go on further away from the start of this pandemic that our school nurses will face less challenges regarding Covid-19.