

LISD School Nurse Assignment

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many unforeseen and troubling hardships for healthcare employees, including school nurses. When thinking about all of the tasks a school nurse completes throughout the day, it is easy to see why they are essential to the health and wellbeing of school-aged children. School nurses are the primary healthcare professional that children see, and they are available at any point throughout the school day. Not only do school nurses take care of children who have fallen ill throughout the day, but they are one of the biggest advocates for the health of the school population as a whole. They perform screenings and plan ahead for each child to make sure the child's needs are met. They are also the employee that others at the school count on when there is a potential medical issue. They put themselves on the line and commonly expose themselves to contagious illnesses in order to take care of the school's population. It is no surprise that school nurses are facing many challenges while trying to maneuver through this pandemic. Many schools across the United States and all over the world have closed their doors in order to try and limit the spread of COVID-19. This means that many school nurses are no longer able to care for children as they normally would. School nurses, unlike most other nurses, are not able to continue performing their daily jobs as they normally would, and instead are having to get creative in order to figure out how they can still provide care to the school's population. Many children rely on the school nurse to administer their daily medications and screen them for potential issues that may warrant further intervention. Not only are the restrictions from this pandemic affecting the school nurses, but the children who rely on these school nurses are also being affected. School nurses are placed in a predicament where they are having to explore new, innovative ways to provide care to children while still following the COVID-19 guidelines (such as providing care virtually). Still, this

pandemic has compromised the school nurse's ability to perform daily tasks and carry out adequate care to each child at the school.