

I don't think anyone could have anticipated the changes that were going to occur when the pandemic began in 2020. Most occupations have been and still are effected by the coronavirus pandemic, nursing and education ranking high on that list. School nurses being a part of both of categories, doubles the negative impact. School nurses had to quickly transition to focusing on the students immediate needs. Students with known health conditions were now not being seen by a medical professional daily/weekly, access to supplies and medications were limited, and the other basic needs of the child like food, safety, housing also became overwhelming. Job rolls changed not just from in person to virtual nursing or in home visits/med drop off but to serving the larger community as front line workers. Some nurses were employed by their local hospitals or health department working on screening and treating the corona virus. The second article by sage journals shined light on how stay at home orders and being an essential worker brings unique challenges. Managing work and family responsibilities within the same space as well as trying to be safe and taking care of family when you are required to venture out into the community puts not only yourself but your family at risk. Now that schools have reopened and some restrictions have lifted, I don't think the school nurse roll has or ever will return back to the way it was before. School nurses are vital to the continued health of the students in our area. Keeping up to date records of immunizations, reducing spread of common viruses for school aged children and now the corona virus, and treating those with chronic illnesses that (most likely) put them at a higher risk.