

Dr. Stephanie Knutson, RN  
School Health Administration  
Education Consultant for School Nursing and School Health Education

**Happy School Nurses' Day from the Connecticut State Department of Education!**



## **School Nurses: Supporting Students in Times of Crisis**

***School Nurse Day is May 6, 2020***

“SILVER SPRING, MD -- National School Nurse Day, May 6, 2020, is a time to celebrate the specialty practice of school nursing. In 1972, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) created National School Nurse Day to recognize school nurses and acknowledge their role in the educational setting. NASN applauds the contributions school nurses make every day to improve the health, safety, and academic success of all students.

The theme this year – School Nurses: Supporting Students in Times of Crisis – reinforces the changing times of 2020. This year, more than ever, all members of our school communities, school nurses included, have been required to take on unprecedented roles and adapt quickly to changes in their jobs. It is reflective of the significant roles school nurses have in the health care of their school communities to help make a healthier place for children and families to learn and grow during this crisis.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the essential school nurse role. Whether we are physically present in our health offices, or working virtually to support our students, the role of school nurses in public health, in policy development, in care coordination and education is essential,” said NASN President Laurie Combe, MN, RN, NCSN. “A professional school nurse is needed for every school because school nursing is the foundation for student physical and mental health.”

NASN believes all teachers deserve to have school nurses in their buildings so that teachers can focus on instruction and students' individual educational needs; and parents deserve to feel secure that children are safe at school and their health needs are met every day by school nurses. School nurses have the knowledge and skills to plan and implement care for students with chronic and medically complex conditions and prepare school staff to recognize and respond appropriately to potential emergencies. Prevention is key in school wellness and safety, and planned emergency response and disaster preparedness in schools require the expertise of school nurses.

“In this global Year of the Nurse, it is an honor to recognize our nation's school nurses as we celebrate National School Nurse Day,” said NASN Executive Director Donna Mazyck, MS, RN, NCSN. “School nurses influence wellness and disease prevention practices in our communities now more than ever during these changing times.”

### **Reference:**

The National Association of School Nurses. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/blogs/nasn-profile/2020/03/31/school-nurses-supporting-students-in-times-of-crisis>

### Governor Lamont announces in-person classes at K-12 schools canceled for remainder of academic year

This morning, Governor Lamont announced that he is ordering in-person classes at all K-12 public school facilities in Connecticut to remain canceled for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year and continue providing distance learning during this period. Schools will also be required to continue providing meals to children under the school lunch and breakfast programs for consumption at home, as they have been throughout this emergency.

The governor is consulting with state and local education officials regarding whether summer school programming should commence as scheduled. He anticipates having guidance on that matter toward the end of this month.

For more information, [read the press release issued today by Governor Lamont.](#)



### Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day celebrates women by honoring the mother of the family, motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in the world!

Sincerely,



### 2019-20 School Health Services Program Information Survey and Concussion Reporting

**“All we sincerely ask is that you continue to do your best!”**

- Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-203b, *Health Services Program Information Survey* requires that for the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education must complete the full [Survey](#) that includes concussion questions as mandated by [Section 10-149e of the Connecticut General Statutes](#).
- The deadline to complete the [Surveys](#) has been **extended to June 30, 2020**.
- School Nurse Coordinators/Supervisors will need to gather data from each school in their local or regional school districts. Each school nurse will need to provide school level data as of **February 1, 2020**. In other words, data included in the Survey should be collected from the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, up to and including February 1, 2020.
- Only one survey per school district is accepted by the Survey Administrator.
- Please feel free to contact me [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov) if you have any questions.

DR. STEPHANIE G. KNUTSON  
CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Phone: 860-807-2108

E-mail: [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov)

### Nondiscrimination Statement

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 607, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, [Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov](mailto:Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov).