

# School Nurse UPDATE



#13 May 6, 2021

Greetings!

In preparation for this newsletter I reviewed the CDC [What's New & Updated webpage](#) to see if I missed any new guidance. Wow! I was blown away with how much I missed this past week even though it seems I am constantly receiving updates via multiple sources and searching webpages. I've pulled some of the most relevant and placed them under the CDC section of this newsletter.

**CDC continues to recommend avoiding large events and gatherings.** Currently, CDC does not provide numbers to define small and large events. CDC did put out some **specific recommendations for graduation** and that information is under the CDC section. DHS also has recommendations on their [COVID-19: Schools and Child Care webpage](#).

Recently I read some school nurse discussions regarding oral stimulation for students while wearing masks (beyond gum chewing). Since masks will continue to be a recommended mitigation strategy next fall, I thought some of the suggestions would be helpful to share. They included "chewelry" sewn into masks (one school nurse found them on Amazon), running one's tongue back and forth over the teeth (and even counting the teeth while doing so), making clicking noises with tongue, practice rolling tongue (genetic trait so not everyone can do this), and making "fish faces."

PRACTICE POINTS again highlights the statewide (voluntary) School Health Services Survey. Spoiler alert—it will be super simple to fill out and most of the information does not require any "data" collection!

National School Nurse Day is next week! Links to two Wisconsin based proclamations are under DPI News. Congratulations in advance!

Louise

*DPI supports best practices/evidence-based resources, but does not vet or endorse products/services. User is responsible to evaluate the resource and how it meets local needs.*

## FEATURED STORIES

PRACTICE POINTS –  
Health Services Survey  
Made Simple!

DHS Transitions to  
VaccineFinder (p. 4)

CDC Safer Ways to  
Celebrate End of School  
Events (p. 7)

Organizations Support  
Mitigation Measures (p. 2)

Coffee Drinking Tied to  
Brain Changes (p. 9)

## SAVE THE DATE

**National School Nurse  
Day- May 12, 2021**

NASN2021 Conference-  
Transforming Student  
Health: School Nurses  
Leading the Way  
June 21 - June 25, 2021  
**Registration now open.**

New School Nurse Virtual  
Orientation – October 21-  
22, 2021

# DPI News



## DPI Recognizes Contributions of School Nurses

DPI State Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Stanford Taylor has signed a proclamation declaring May 12, 2021, as School Nurse Day in Wisconsin. The proclamation is posted to [this webpage](#). Here is [the link](#) to the proclamation signed by Governor Tony Evers.

## DHS Letter Urging Continuation of Mitigation Measures

Last week Deputy State Superintendent Mike Thompson sent district administrators an email regarding a [Department of Health Services \(DHS\) letter for Wisconsin School Administrators](#) regarding COVID-19. DPI strongly encourages districts to follow DHS guidance to ensure we can keep our schools open and safe.

## Non-governmental Resources

During the April 29<sup>th</sup> DHS/DPI/CRT webinar, two non-governmental groups providing recommendations and guidance were mentioned. One is UW Health Pediatric Providers and Infection Control Specialists who released a statement. Other mentioned resources are the work of the [COVID Collaborative](#).

- ❑ [UW Health Pediatric Providers and Medical Community Call for Increased Vigilance as COVID-19 Cases Increase in Kids](#)

COVID Collaborative resources:

- ❑ A [Roadmap to Healthy Schools](#) that provides a tactical overview of the core elements of effective IPC, complete with promising practices and case studies from schools and districts that have successfully resumed in-person instruction this year;
- ❑ A [consensus statement from leading scientists](#) that builds on the CDC guidance and makes clear the evidence of the effectiveness of layered IPC measures in schools; and
- ❑ A [use of funds advisory memo](#) that outlines recommendations for deploying authorized funds for IPC practices throughout the K-12 sector, including suggestions for facilities, training, and workforce investments.

*Because case activity is still high throughout our state, it is essential to continue COVID-19 mitigation strategies in schools and child care settings. A critical mitigation strategy continues to be wearing masks. The science is clear—masks work.*

# DPI News

## May 2-8 is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

The Office of Children's Mental Health has organized several virtual events, including: Social Media Share, Wisconsin Youth Virtual Art Gallery, Wisconsin Voices of Students Report Presentation, Teen Mental Health Virtual Panel, and a Two Bald Guys & a Microphone Discussion. Read more about the calendar of events at the [OCMH Awareness Week webpage](#).



## DPI WIR Integration Project

In an effort to make it safer to return to classrooms and to get students caught up on any recommended vaccines that were missed over the last year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has developed a secure integration that links Student Information Systems (SIS) to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). Visit the [Immunization Registry Integration](#) page to help you get started.

Schools may utilize the WIR integration to import student vaccination records directly into their SIS to meet reporting requirements.

The following SIS vendors are or will be providing the immunization registry integration to their schools:

- FACTS SIS
- Skyward - Student Management Suite (SMS 2.0)
- Skyward - Qmlativ
- JMC
- PowerSchool SIS - *Releasing this May*
- Infinite Campus - *Releasing this Fall*

Keeping students current on their immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic will help prevent outbreaks of other diseases. Thank you for helping us keep our communities safe and healthy.

## School-based COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for Students

DPI will soon release logistical considerations for school districts who may want to facilitate COVID-19 vaccinations among eligible students. Besides hosting vaccination clinics or directing students and families to established vaccinators, another way to facilitate vaccination of students is to provide public health messaging regarding vaccinations. Such messaging is located on the Department of Health Services website. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm>

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# DHS News

## Respiratory Report

[The Weekly Respiratory Report](#) (detailing influenza data) is available and updated bi-weekly.

## DHS Transitions to VaccineFinder

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) will begin using [VaccineFinder](#) to help people more easily locate available vaccine providers who are open to the public. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched the VaccineFinder tool in March to help people find COVID-19 vaccine in their area. In May the tool will replace the [DHS map of COVID-19 vaccine providers](#) that launched in February. VaccineFinder gives users a more customizable experience when searching for vaccine. In addition to standard information, such as days and hours of clinics, users will be able to filter their search by vaccine type, adjust the search radius, and see at a glance which vaccine providers have vaccine in stock. DHS will continue to work with vaccine providers to ensure the data populating VaccineFinder is current.

## Walk-ins Accepted at Community-Based Vaccination Clinics

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) six community-based vaccination clinics are making it easier for you to get your COVID-19 vaccination. Just stop by during clinic hours Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.—no appointment needed. You can still schedule an appointment through the [Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Registry](#) or call toll-free at 1-844-684-1064. Find a clinic near you using [Vaccines.gov](#).

## DHS Vaccination Task Force Soliciting Testimonials

The DHS Vaccination Task Force is soliciting testimonials from “ordinary people” sharing their reasons for getting vaccinated to be used in DHS communications materials. They are looking for individuals to provide the following information. If you are interested, email [louise.wilson@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:louise.wilson@dpi.wi.gov) and Louise will forward the information to DHS.

- Quote sharing why they got vaccinated or are planning to get the vaccine (1-2 sentences)
- Name (first and last or first name and last initial), profession, and hometown

The poster features a light blue background with a white border. At the top, it reads 'DHS COMMUNITY-BASED VACCINATION CLINICS' in bold, dark blue letters. Below this, a list of counties is provided: Barron County, Douglas County, La Crosse County, Marathon County, Racine County, and Rock County. To the right of the list is a red circular graphic with white text that says 'WALK-INS ARE WELCOMED! NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!' and contains two bandage icons. Below the list, it states 'ALL LOCATIONS OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 11 A.M.-7 P.M.' and provides the website 'https://vaccinate.wi.gov' and the phone number '1-844-684-1064'. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo that says 'YOU STOP SPREAD' with a stylized virus icon. In the bottom right corner, there is the Wisconsin Department of Health Services logo.

*VaccineFinder gives users a more customizable experience when searching for vaccine. In addition to standard information, such as days and hours of clinics, users will be able to filter their search by vaccine type, and see at a glance which vaccine providers have vaccine in stock.*

# DHS News



## Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Update

On April 23, 2021, the pause on the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine was lifted. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19. The [vaccine fact sheet for recipients and caregivers](#) has been updated to include information about the risk of a very rare and severe type of blood clot.

If you are considering getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, please know the following:

- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is safe and effective, and that the pause on administering the vaccine was lifted after an extensive safety review by independent experts, the CDC, and FDA.
- There is a risk, primarily for women ages 18-49, of a very rare but severe type of blood clotting.
- Getting vaccinated is the most effective way to protect yourself and your family from the risks of COVID-19.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a one dose shot, meaning, you have full immunity 14 days after you receive it.
- You can look for vaccine by brand at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).
- If you get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, contact your health care provider immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms within three weeks of receiving your vaccine:
  - Shortness of breath
  - Chest pain
  - Leg swelling
  - Persistent abdominal pain
  - Severe or persistent headaches
  - Blurred vision
  - Easy bruising or tiny spots under the skin beyond their injection site

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# CDC New Releases

## **Guidance for What School Nutrition Professionals and Volunteers at Schools Need to Know about COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/school-nutrition-professionals.html>

## **Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps During COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

## **New Webpage: Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html>

## **Choosing Safer Activities**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

## **Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

## **CDC Schools and Child Care Programs**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

## **Guidance for Organizing Large Events and Gatherings**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>



*In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, school nutrition programs have developed innovative ways to ensure that in-person, virtual, and hybrid learners continue to have access to nutritious meals.*

*Campers and staff should participate in activities outdoors whenever possible, while wearing masks and maintaining physical distance. They should not wear masks when swimming or during other water activities but should stay six feet apart..*

# CDC

## Safer Ways to Celebrate Graduations and End of School Events

Attending gatherings to celebrate graduations and end of the school year events increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. The safest way to celebrate this year is virtually, with people who live with you, or outside while taking prevention measures. Here are some tips for schools to encourage students and families to celebrate safely.

- Host a virtual commencement.
- Organize safely distanced drive-in or drive-through celebrations for those who are graduating.

Create celebration videos to share with family and friends.

- Hang graduation yard signs in the community.
- Organize a home decorating event to honor the graduates.
- Dress up and have a small outdoor celebration with everyone at least 6 feet apart and wearing mask

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>



## Job Opening

Madison Metropolitan School District has a school nurse leadership position open. Here is [the link](#) to the job description.

# NASN News

## School Nurse Day is May 12, 2021

NASN has put together a toolkit you can use in your schools and communities to help spread the word about School Nurse Day. The toolkit includes social media posts, images, and information to help celebrate the contributions from school nurses. The theme this year is Championing the Whole Student.



## Preparing for a School-Located COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

School-located vaccination events (SLVE) have a long history in the United States and have successfully contributed to lower morbidity and mortality due to vaccine-preventable diseases. School nurses play an integral role in planning for SLVE. In [this podcast](#), NASN School Nurse Editor Cynthia Galemore interviews author Katherine Park and Robin Wallin about the article, "Preparing for a School-Located COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic."

## May is Mental Health Month

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of people of all ages. Now, more than ever, it is critical to reduce the stigma around mental health struggles, because that stigma often prevents individuals from seeking help. The theme for Mental Health Month in May is Tools 2 Thrive, providing practical tools that everyone can use to improve their mental health and increase their resiliency regardless of their personal situation. [Learn more.](#)

## NASN Conference Justification Toolkit

Do you need some resources to help you justify your attendance to NASN's Annual Conference? The [Virtual NASN2021 Justification Toolkit](#) will help you request support to attend the event. We look forward to "seeing" you there!

If you have questions, please contact NASN's conference team at [conference@nasn.org](mailto:conference@nasn.org).

## Inside the Toolkit

- ❖ An invitation from NASN President Laurie Combe.
- ❖ Learning outcomes for you and benefits your school and employer will reap.
- ❖ Funding ideas if your employer is not able to support your attendance.
- ❖ A template letter to request support.

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# Medscape Nurses

## [Regular Coffee Drinking Tied to Functional Brain Changes](#)

Drinking coffee on a regular basis appears to enhance concentration and improve motor control and alertness by inducing functional and connectivity changes in the brain, a new imaging study suggests. [Read more.](#)

## **Say Goodbye to Some Insurers' Waivers for COVID Treatment Fees**

Just as other industries are rolling back some consumer-friendly changes made early in the pandemic—think empty middle seats on airplanes—so, too, are health insurers. Many voluntarily waived all deductibles, copayments and other costs for insured patients who fell ill with COVID-19 and needed hospital care, doctor visits, medications or other treatment. [Read more.](#)

## **What We Know About the Indian Variant as Coronavirus Sweeps South Asia**

Scientists are studying what led to an unexpected surge, and particularly whether a variant of the novel coronavirus first detected in India is to blame. The variant, named B.1.617, has been reported in some 17 countries, raising global concern. [Read more.](#)



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# Immunization Action Coalition

## **In IAC's "Video of the Week," a wise grandmother convinces her family to get vaccinated against COVID-19**

In this [animated video written by Maya Adam, MD, of Stanford Medicine](#), a wise grandmother convinces her family, absorbed in their digital devices, to get vaccinated. Although her family members are reluctant at first, she gets a COVID-19 shot and then finds a way to explain the power of vaccines against many diseases.



# Miscellaneous

## Equipping State Leaders to Support School Nurses During COVID-19

Child Trends and the National Association of State Boards of Education are hosting a discussion on opportunities for **state health and education agencies** to support the critical role of school nurses during COVID-19.

Encourage your state leaders to attend.

On May 13, from 3-4 p.m. EST, the session will include a panel discussion with the Healthy Schools Campaign, the National Association of School Nurses, and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants. [Register](#)

[here](#)

## Who has a right to ask if you're vaccinated?

(This article was shared in a separate email last week.)

"What do kindergarteners, people taking exotic vacations, health care workers and Ellis Island immigrants have in common? Most of them had to prove, in one form or another, that they wouldn't spread deadly infectious diseases to others... They're just a few examples of the long-established right for public institutions such as schools, employers, governments and businesses to protect the health of others by requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination or of a past infection, or seek a medical or religious exception.

So why has COVID-19 vaccination become a lightning rod for controversy over 'vaccine passports' and claims of violations of medical privacy or individual rights?" [Read more.](#)

## Final School Nurse Network Meeting May 19<sup>th</sup>

The theme for this networking meeting is self-care and recharging. The planning committee would like to assist School Nurses in identifying opportunities to carve out some time to recharge this summer and would like to hear from School Nurses who have:

- Successfully "reassigned" some duties to other school staff in an effort to lighten your load (for example, assigning the immunization compliance or the responsibility of Blood Borne Pathogen compliance to another staff member)
- Worked with their district to hire additional nursing staff for the summer
- Identified some duties that you have decided you can let go of to allow you to focus on other tasks
- Identified school staff that you will train to assist with COVID-related tasks (that you have solely been responsible for this school year)

If you are interested in sharing your experiences, please contact

[Teresa@SchoolHealthAssociates.com](mailto:Teresa@SchoolHealthAssociates.com)



*They're just a few examples of the long-established right for public institutions such as schools, employers, governments and businesses to protect the health of others by requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination or of a past infection, or seek a medical or religious exception.*

# PRACTICE POINTS

By Louise Wilson

## School Health Service Survey Made Simple!

So why am I devoting back-to-back Practice Points to the topic of data collection and specifically the Wisconsin's Student Health Services Survey? Frankly, because it is critical that we finally have data to describe how school health services are provided to Wisconsin school children and, if not THIS year, WHEN? Now, more than ever, I need your information so I can share who provides what services. And did I mention in my newsletter greeting that it will be super simple this year?

Please review the Practice Points in the [# 12 April 22 edition](#) or go to the [Data Collection webpage](#) to read how the information is used and for a copy of the data points for the 2020-21 school year. In the hope of adding Wisconsin data to the *National School Health Data Set: Every Student Counts*, the definitions for key data points mirror the national definitions. Kate McCoy, YRBS Coordinator/Research and Evaluation Consultant, has helped redesign the survey to make it very easy to navigate when entering your data. There is a drop down box that automatically fills in your enrollment. The staffing section is all on one page. You can automatically come back to the survey and re-enter data up until the **August 15, 2021 deadline**. This year you will even be emailed a copy of your report!

Do you know if you stock medications? Do you know if you have a medical advisor? Do you know if there are LPNs working in your district? Do you know if you did contact tracing this year and who was assigned that responsibility? There are [421 public school districts](#) in Wisconsin. There are over 800 private and independent charter schools in Wisconsin. Imagine what advocacy could be accomplished if we knew who provided school health services and did contact tracing this year, or knew how many districts had medical advisors and stocked emergency epinephrine/Narcan?

I am hoping the survey link will be live by the time you read this. The link will be on the [Data Collection webpage](#).



*Imagine what advocacy could be accomplished if we knew who provided school health services and did contact tracing this year, or knew how many districts had medical advisors and stocked emergency epinephrine/Narcan?*

This publication is available from:  
Learning and Support  
Student Services Prevention and Wellness Team  
(608) 266-8857  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pupil-services/school-nurse>  
May 2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; what is best for our kids is what is best for our state, and by investing in our state's students today, we are ensuring Wisconsin's future prosperity; and

*WHEREAS*; every kid in Wisconsin should have access to a high-quality, public education, which means ensuring that students are provided with the physical and mental health support they need, especially as students today face increasingly complex and life-threatening health problems requiring care in school; and

*WHEREAS*; parents and loved ones deserve to feel confident that their kids will be safe, supported, and cared for while at school; and

*WHEREAS*; for more than a century, school nurses have played a critical role in improving public health and advancing the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievements of students in our state and across our country; and

*WHEREAS*; the COVID-19 pandemic has only underscored the importance of the role of school nurses in ensuring the health and safety of our state's students, as they continue to provide essential support to kids and families facing unprecedented stress and other challenges presented by the pandemic; and

*WHEREAS*; school nurses understand the link between health and learning and are trained to address the many home and community factors that can affect the health of the students they care for, acting as liaisons between families, healthcare providers, and their school communities, and providing a critical safety net for our kids; and

*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin celebrates school nurses in our state and throughout our country for the positive difference they make in the lives of school kids every day;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 12, 2021, as

## NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin  
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in  
the City of Madison this 28<sup>th</sup> day of  
April 2021.

TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR































the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

# Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
<b>Safest</b>		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
<b>Less Safe</b>		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
<b>Least Safe</b>		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
<b>Less Safe</b>		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
<b>Least Safe</b>		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

## Get a COVID-19 vaccine



**Prevention measures not needed**



**Take prevention measures**

**Fully vaccinated people:** wear a mask  
**Unvaccinated people:** wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)