

School Nurse UPDATE



#4 September 29, 2022

FEATURED STORIES

PRACTICE POINTS –
Toileting of Students

Trauma Informed
Resiliency Training (DPI
News)

Back-to-School Toolkit
(NASN News)

SAVE THE DATES

DPI Consultant Office
hours 10/21/22 8-8:45
AM

DPI New School Nurse
Orientation October 6-7,
2022, Stevens Point.

DPI School Nurse
Meeting-Topic Long
COVID 10/10/22 3-3:45
PM

WASN Annual
Conference April 26-28,
2023

Greetings!

Last week DPI State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly gave the **State of Education address** at the capital. Under DPI News you will see **DPI's budget request. Funds for all pupil services personnel was included.**

There are a couple of dates that did not fit under the Save the Date section. DiSH's next session is October 19, 2022 and the NASN 2023 Conference will be held June 30-July 3, 2023 in Orlando, Florida. It is never too early to start making plans to attend this national conference.

I've included another email from the MacGill® School Health Supply Company as it addresses concerns I often hear from **school nurses - their liability**. This is not an endorsement of the company but intended for reflection and information purposes. Medscape Nurses (p. 6) also contains reflection points on this court case.

The Department of Health Services will soon start school outreach for participation in the **2022-2023 Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey**. Read more on page 3.

I was excited to receive my latest COVID-19 booster. I am trying to stay healthy for the upcoming **New School Nurse Orientation. Registration closes at the end of the day September 29th**. Information about the **"updated boosters"** is under DHS News (p.5). Under CDC I've included information on CDC interim guidance for healthcare personnel. These recommendations apply to clinical settings yet, school nurses can use the recommendations to guide their personal choices and could apply to the school health office. Note "community transmission levels" not Community Levels are used.

Attached to this Update is the newly released **CDC study on Mental Health of School Nurses in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic**. See **Page 7**.

Practice Points addresses one of the most difficult issues school nurses face-toileting and uncontrolled bowel and bladder elimination in students.

Louise

DPI News



DPI Submits 2023-25 Biennial Budget Request

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction requested \$2.5 billion in its 2023-25 biennial budget submission to the Wisconsin Department of Administration. “Wisconsin children and Wisconsin communities – all of us - deserve the best public education and library systems in the country, and to obtain this goal, we need robust and ongoing investment,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly said. [Read more.](#)

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage month will be celebrated September 15 - October 15, 2022. Signed into federal law in 1988 under President Ronald Reagan, it actually began two decades earlier as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson. While it’s unusual to start commemorative weeks or months mid-month, there’s a reason the timeframe was chosen; within this thirty-day period, seven separate Latin American countries will celebrate their Independence Days.

The purpose of marking Hispanic Heritage Month is to bring a spotlight to the positive, important influence Hispanic Americans and Hispanic cultures have contributed to the story of America– its past, present, and future. [Read more.](#)

DPI Co-Hosts Trauma Informed Resilient Schools Online Training

OCT 25, 2022 |9AM-11AM | ON ZOOM

This presentation is for participants who already have a basic understanding of trauma and its impact on a student’s school experience. See attached flyer for more information.

NASN News

NASN Back-to-School Toolkit

Whether you are seasoned school nurse or in your first year on the job, [NASN’s back-to-school toolkit](#) highlights the resources you need to promote the well-being of students and help them develop lifelong habits that support optimal health and wellness. The tools in the toolkit will help you, working closely with school staff, students, and administration, to develop a healthy environment where students can thrive.

The purpose of marking Hispanic Heritage Month is to bring a spotlight to the positive, important influence Hispanic Americans and Hispanic cultures have contributed to the story of America– its past, present, and future.

DHS News

Joint Webinar for Public Health and School Stakeholders: October 25, 2022, at 4 p.m.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) invite you to a joint webinar for local public health and school stakeholders on **Tuesday, October 25, from 4–5 p.m.** This webinar will be used as an information sharing platform for all school health related topics, where stakeholders will hear from state experts regarding Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DHS guidance for schools.

Register: Please [register in advance of the webinar](#). A Zoom link and call-in information will be provided upon registration. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the DHS website.

Save the Date for Upcoming Webinars

This webinar is the first of the 2022-2023 school year series. Webinars will be held quarterly during the fall, winter, and spring sessions of the school year to share information with local public health and school stakeholders. Webinar details will be distributed in advance of the webinars through these bulletins. In accordance with previous communications, an additional bulletin will be sent prior to each webinar with presenter and registration information. Please register in advance for each webinar.

2022-2023 Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey of Kindergarten and Third Grade Students

School outreach for participation in the 2022-2023 Wisconsin Healthy Smiles (WIHS) Survey will begin in the coming weeks. The WIHS Survey is an oral health screening survey coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) Oral Health Program and is designed to assess the oral health of kindergarten and third grade students throughout Wisconsin. Students at participating schools will have the opportunity to participate in an oral health screening conducted by a licensed dental professional. Additionally, all kindergarten and third grade students at participating schools will receive free oral health supplies regardless of student participation. The information collected as part of the survey will help guide DHS in developing programs that deliver optimal oral health services to children throughout the state. The WIHS Survey is independent of school-based oral health programs and its success is contingent upon collecting oral health data from a wide variety of schools throughout the state. Therefore, schools with and without school-based oral health programs are encouraged to participate.

It is important to note that schools are selected at random for participation, so please remind your school's administrative staff to lookout for an email invitation and phone calls regarding participation.



This webinar will be used as an information sharing platform for all school health related topics, where stakeholders will hear from state experts regarding Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DHS guidance for schools.

DHS News

Respiratory Report

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

Stay Healthy this Fall: COVID-19 At-Home Tests and Booster Shots Still Available with No Out-of-Pocket Cost

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) are reminding Wisconsinites that their COVID-19 at-home tests and booster shots are still available with no out-of-pocket cost.

Doses of the updated COVID-19 boosters are in Wisconsin and will continue to be delivered to providers over the next several weeks. Pharmacies, health centers, and clinics are continuing to make appointments available as their booster doses arrive. People are encouraged to check with their primary care provider, local or tribal health department or clinics, or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find vaccination sites near them. Health plans are also required to cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, through the end of the federally declared public health emergency.

“As we head into cold and flu season, we encourage everyone to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19 by staying up-to-date on vaccinations,” said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. “At-home testing can also help identify a case of COVID-19 early, and there are resources available to help you stock up on those tests.”

View the entire [news release](#).

DHS Updates COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard to Include 0-4 Age Group

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has updated its [COVID-19 Vaccines for Wisconsin Residents dashboard](#). The dashboard now includes data on COVID-19 vaccinations in the 0-4 age group as well as COVID-19 booster data for the 5-11 age group.

As of June 18, 2022, children ages 6 months to 4 years old are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, as of May 20, 2022, children ages 5-11 are eligible to receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Parents and guardians of young children should check with their child’s healthcare provider, call 211, or visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to see which age groups your local vaccination sites are serving. Children 5 years and younger may need a prescription from a doctor before getting a COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy.



The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) are reminding Wisconsinites that their COVID-19 at-home tests and booster shots are still available with no out-of-pocket cost.

DHS News

Updated Boosters Now Available!

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is urging Wisconsinites to make a plan to get boosted against COVID-19. People 12 and older are now eligible to receive updated COVID-19 boosters (also known as bivalent boosters). Doses of the updated COVID-19 boosters have arrived in Wisconsin and will continue to be delivered to providers over the next several weeks. Pharmacies, health centers, and clinics are expected to make appointments available as their booster doses arrive.

The updated boosters are the first Omicron-specific vaccines to be made available in the United States. These boosters have been [authorized](#) by the FDA and [recommended](#) by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and they target the original strain of COVID-19, as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. The highly contagious BA.5 Omicron subvariant is the dominant strain of COVID-19, making up about 90 percent of cases nationally. People can safely get their COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines at the same time, including the annual flu vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines remain available to all Wisconsinites at no cost regardless of immigration or health insurance status. Anyone can schedule an appointment for the vaccine using a variety of options, including with their health care provider, at community-based vaccination clinics, local and tribal health departments, or pharmacies. Vaccination sites across Wisconsin may choose to provide vaccines to specific age groups. People are encouraged to check with their local health clinics or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find vaccination sites for specific age groups.

Find a Pop-up Vaccination Clinic in Your Community

There are many ways to find a COVID-19 vaccine—whether it is at your doctor’s office, through your employer, or at your pharmacy. But did you know that you can also get vaccinated at a pop-up vaccination clinic? These events are typically hosted by local trusted community organizations such as places of worship, barbershops, schools, or libraries. To find a pop-up clinic in your community, visit the [211 Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Special Event Directory](#).

Have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Anyone who has questions about COVID-19 vaccines or appointment locations can call 211 or 877-947-2211. Wisconsinites can also text COVID to 211-211 for county-specific information on COVID-19, vaccination clinics, and other resources.

How to Prove COVID-19 Vaccination

When proof of COVID-19 vaccination is needed for travel, employment, and more, it’s important to understand the different ways to access your vaccination record or provide proof.

Vaccination Card

First, your vaccination card has information on when and where you received your vaccine as well as other helpful information related to the COVID-19 vaccine. Keep your card in a safe place! When taking pictures or posting selfies about getting your COVID-19 vaccine, do not post photos of your vaccination card online to protect your health information. Do not laminate your vaccination card.

Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)

If you do not have your vaccination card, you may also visit the [Wisconsin Immunization Registry \(WIR\)](#) for a copy of your complete vaccine record. Your record can be accessed whether or not you have a social security card or internet. To learn the different ways to access your vaccination record visit the [WIR](#) webpage or call 608-266-9691.

Medscape Nurses



Are All Medical Errors Now Crimes? The Nurse Vaught Verdict

This is a commentary. Today we have a distinguished panel joining us to discuss an important legal decision resulting in a criminal conviction, involving a medical error due to administration of the wrong medication by a critical care nurse that led to a patient's death. [Read more.](#)

Have Long COVID? Here's Where to Go for Care

Patients who navigate what can feel like an endless series of checkups and lab tests to confirm a long COVID diagnosis face an even harder path ahead: Figuring out where to go for care. [Read more.](#)

FDA Approves 'Rapid-Acting' Oral Drug for Major Depression

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first oral *N*-methyl *D*-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD) in adults. *Auvelity* (Axsome Therapeutics) is a proprietary extended-release oral tablet containing [dextromethorphan \(45 mg\) and bupropion \(105 mg\)](#).

It is the "first and only rapid-acting oral medicine approved for the treatment of MDD with labeling of statistically significant antidepressant efficacy compared to placebo starting at one week," the company said in a news release. [Read more.](#)

This workshop will provide participants with a better understanding of Wisconsin requirements for paraprofessionals and will review various resources for families and educators.

WI FACETS

Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support

Supporting Paraprofessionals to Support Students with IEPs

Wednesday, October 12 | 12:00pm

This workshop will provide participants with a better understanding of Wisconsin requirements for paraprofessionals and will review various resources for families and educators.

Presenters: Iris Jacobson and Eva Kubinski, Education Consultants at the Department of Public Instruction
[Register here.](#)

Asthma and Allergy Network

September Peak Asthma Week

The third week in September is historically the most high impact week of the year for asthma - the September Asthma Peak. For resources on asthma, check out two new web pages on asthma from Allergy & Asthma Network:

[Managing Asthma in Schools: A Guide for Schools](#)
[Managing Asthma in Schools: A Guide for Parents](#)

Also find an infographic on the September Asthma Peak along with other school health resources at:

[School Health Resources](#)



CDC

Mental Health of School Nurses in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In March 2022, CDC collaborated with the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) to distribute a 121-item survey to school nurses in the U.S. Overall, 7,971 school nurses responded from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal nations, and U.S. territories.

Almost half (45 percent) reported symptoms of at least one adverse mental health condition in the two weeks prior to completing the survey. *See attached flyer.*

COVID-19 Boosters

CDC recommends people ages 12 years and older receive one bivalent mRNA booster to protect against COVID-19. Learn about the new guidance with this [free webinar](#).

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic Updated Sept. 23, 2022

[This guidance](#) provides a framework for facilities to implement select infection prevention and control practices (e.g., universal source control) based on their individual circumstances (e.g., levels of community transmission). Note community transmission levels are different than Community Levels.

Overall, 7,971 school nurses responded from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal nations, and U.S. territories.

Almost half (45 percent) reported symptoms of at least one adverse mental health condition in the two weeks prior to completing the survey.

Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin

National Child Health Day | Oct. 3

Children are the building blocks for the future, and ensuring their health is at the top of everything we do at the Alliance. In 1928, Congress established National Child Health Day to recognize the importance of children's health, and we continue to support this message every day. We all have the power to improve the health and well-being of children in Wisconsin – whether it's influencing legislation, participating in a coalition, or raising awareness and educating others.

To recognize the importance of children's health and why you do what you do, please join the Alliance as we celebrate National Child Health Day on Monday, Oct. 3. Show your support for kids by posting a photo on Facebook or Twitter using [#ForKidsHealth](#) with our customizable sign ([found here](#)).

If you would like to participate, but are unable to print the sign yourself, please email our Communications Coordinator, [Sage Duncan](#).

American Academy of Pediatrics - HealthyChildren.Org

Free Webinar Helps Parents Understand Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Parents may participate in a free webinar, [RSV: When It's More Than Just a Cold](#), on September 30 at 12:00 PM Central Time. Host and HealthyChildren.org medical editor, Jennifer Shu, MD, FAAP, welcomes special guest expert, Anna Zimmermann, MD, FAAP, for a discussion about the diagnosis, treatment, and management of RSV. As a pediatrician and neonatologist, Dr. Zimmermann was very familiar with RSV. When RSV hit home, however, it was a difficult time for her and her family. She was thankful to be armed with information and support. Now, she's sharing her personal story to empower others. [Register now.](#)



In 1928, Congress established National Child Health Day to recognize the importance of children's health...

Miscellaneous

MacGill® The Pulse A Nurse's Nightmare (and what we can learn)

Over the past year, nurses everywhere have been closely following the trial and ultimately, the conviction, of fellow nurse RaDonda Vaught. In 2017, a medication error by Vaught caused the death of her 75-year-old patient. The complexities of the case include multiple levels of seemingly egregious mistakes, an alleged cover-up by the medical institution in which the tragedy occurred, and the first time that a nurse was criminally charged, without an intent to harm, for being part of a medication error. The case is controversial for many reasons (you can learn more [here](#)), and while there must undoubtedly be professional accountability when errors are made, and much has been written about the need for systemic changes to improve patient safety; regardless of varying opinions about responsibility and different perceptions around Vaught's actions, the emotional impact the criminal charges have had on nurses has been immense.

A common sentiment amongst many nurses (although definitely not all) has been, "that could have been me." Just about every nurse has felt rushed, distracted, overwhelmed, tired, and has more than likely even made an error at some point, so feelings of empathy for a nurse in this situation, as well as anxiety, fear, concern, and even shock and despair are completely normal. Being outraged about the criminal charges can also accompany feelings of ire for all the mistakes that were admittedly made, and enormous amounts of grief and sympathy for the patient and her family. Even though this case involved a setting and many factors that are completely different from school nursing, acknowledging the emotions it stirs up and reflecting on what potential lessons it has for school nurses is important.

Perhaps the biggest lesson is this: never stop advocating for yourself. When you advocate for yourself, you are advocating for the health and safety of your entire school community. If you are stretched too thin, not given adequate time or space to provide safe care, or are pressured into shortcuts to "do more with less," you are at risk and so are all the individuals relying on you to care for them. Slow down, speak up, and protect yourself. In doing so, you'll be protecting everyone.

From this invaluable lesson of knowing your limits—both physically, emotionally, and in the scope of practice—and through making your voice heard, many other patient safety lessons become apparent—including medication administration rights, adherence to protocols, and establishment of evidence-based policies. Through humility, honesty, vigilance, and advocacy, school nurses can help advance the conversation that has resulted from this case from blame and incrimination to improving student (patient) safety.

In response to Vaught's conviction in March 2022, the American Nurses Association released [this statement](#).



Just about every nurse has felt rushed, distracted, overwhelmed, tired, and has more than likely even made an error at some point, so feelings of empathy for a nurse in this situation, as well as anxiety, fear, concern, and even shock and despair are completely normal.

Miscellaneous

Putting Families First

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) has made available several new materials on the Family First: [Communication Toolbox Website](#).

As part of the updated Putting Families First Communication Toolbox, you can find the following materials:

- ["Putting Families First: Wisconsin's Child Welfare System Transformation" \(video\)](#) - a short video overview of the vision and priorities of the Putting Families First transformation.
- [Transforming Wisconsin's Child Welfare System](#) - an overview of the research supporting the Putting Families First transformation.
- [Judicial and Legal Stakeholders: Supporting In-Home Planning](#) - a document detailing how legal partners can support in-home planning.



Music To Live By

Did you know that CPR delivered to a sudden cardiac arrest victim in the first minutes from collapse can triple their survival rate? Be sure your school community knows how to push hard and fast in the center of the chest, about 100-120 compressions per minute. [Find your song to keep the beat!](#)

Be sure your school community knows how to push hard and fast in the center of the chest, about 100-120 compressions per minute. Find your song to keep the beat!

Office of Minority Health

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed each year from **September 15 to October 15**. With this year's theme, "**Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation**," the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) encourages everyone to ensure that all voices are represented and welcomed to help build stronger communities and a stronger nation.

Visit the OMH [Hispanic Heritage Month website](#) to find bilingual [resources and materials](#) on Hispanic/Latino health, [downloadable graphics and social media messaging](#), and a customizable graphic template in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Diabetes in School Health



Welcome Back School Nurses!

The Diabetes in School Health Team is wishing you a great new school year! We are excited to continue growing our online community of school nurse in Wisconsin and Washington.

Now Posted: DiSH A La Carte Session “Diabetes & COVID.” [Click here to Watch: Diabetes & COVID DiSH A La Carte Session.](#)

Upcoming DiSH Sessions

Live DiSH Sessions will resume in October 2022!

October 19, 2022:

Nutrition Basics

November 16, 2022:

CGM Information

December 14, 2022:**

What is a Ketone?

****THIS IS THE 2nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

January 18, 2023:

Session Topic TBD

February 15, 2023:

Session Topic TBD

March 15, 2023:

Session Topic TBD

April 19, 2023:

Session Topic TBD

May 17, 2023:

Session Topic TBD

MMWR

Increase in Acute Respiratory Illnesses Among Children and Adolescents Associated with Rhinoviruses and Enteroviruses, Including Enterovirus D68 – United States, July–September 2022

What is already known about this topic?

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) caused biennial outbreaks of severe respiratory illness and acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in the United States in 2014, 2016, and 2018.

What is added by this report?

After an extended period of low EV-D68 circulation during the COVID-19 pandemic, surveillance data suggest increased detection of rhinovirus/enterovirus and EV-D68, concurrent with increased emergency department visits by children and adolescents with acute respiratory illness and asthma/reactive airway disease during summer 2022.

What are the implications for public health practice?

Clinicians should consider EV-D68 as a possible cause of acute respiratory illness and AFM in children and adolescents this fall and be aware of guidance for prompt testing and referral for patients with suspected AFM. [Read article.](#)

Immunization Action Coalition



Summary of the New 2022-23 Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

Yearly influenza vaccination continues to be recommended for everyone age 6 months and older. All available influenza vaccines in the United States continue to be quadrivalent (containing two influenza A and two influenza B strains). The changes in the CDC's published Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for influenza vaccination in 2022–2023 are summarized below:

- The 2022–23 vaccines include new influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B/Victoria lineage virus vaccine antigens.
- Flucelvax Quadrivalent (cclIV4, Seqirus) is now FDA-approved for children age 6 months and older.
- Adults age 65 years and older should preferentially receive one of three higher dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines: Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent (HD-IIV4, Sanofi), Flublok Quadrivalent recombinant (RIV4, Sanofi), and Fluad Quadrivalent adjuvanted (aIV4, Seqirus) influenza vaccines. If none of these three preferred vaccines are available, any age-appropriate flu vaccine may be used.
- Updates were made to the recommended timing of vaccination. Influenza vaccination of most adults in July and August should be avoided unless there is a concern that later vaccination may not be possible. Vaccination in July and August may be considered for people in their third trimester of pregnancy. Children who need one or two doses can get vaccinated in July and August. Vaccination of everyone age 6 months and older should continue as long as influenza viruses are circulating, and unexpired vaccine is available.

The current ACIP recommendations for influenza vaccination are available here:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/rr/pdfs/rr7101a1-H.pdf.

Immunize.org updates its "Vaccines: COVID-19" web page with information on bivalent vaccines

Immunize.org updated its "Vaccines: COVID-19" main page to connect you with a comprehensive list of CDC and FDA resources. We removed references to the original Pfizer-BioNTech monovalent "purple top" vaccine which is no longer distributed: the last vials expire at the end of September. The revised list now incorporates resources for bivalent COVID-19 booster doses which are recommended for all people age 12 years and older who completed a primary series, regardless of previous booster doses.

New resources from CDC and FDA include fact sheets, clinical considerations, vaccine administration tools, and storage and handling guidance. This page also includes a link to Immunize.org's regularly updated print-ready [checklist for current versions of U.S. COVID-19 vaccination guidance and clinic support tools](#).

[Bookmark this page](#) for quick access to links to key COVID-19 vaccine resource pages from Immunize.org, CDC, and other partners. As guidelines for COVID-19 vaccines are updated and new CDC materials are released, the page will continue to be updated.

National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health



Bridging the Gap Between Vision Screening Referrals and Confirmatory Eye Examinations

Thursday, October 19, 2022, 2:00 – 3:30 Eastern Time

Register [here](#): ([Webinar - Bridging the Gap Between Vision Screening Referrals and Confirmatory Eye Examinations - National Center \(preventblindness.org\)](#))

Session Description:

Undiagnosed and untreated vision disorders in children ages birth through high school can interfere with learning. In an ideal world, the pathway from a vision screening resulting in a referral would immediately lead to a confirmatory eye examination and treatment or monitoring to help ensure children have their best vision now and for the future. The ideal pathway does not always continue beyond a vision screening referral, however. This session describes some of the common challenges and cultural beliefs that can create barriers to obtaining eye care and offers strategies for overcoming some of the barriers to eye care. The session will also provide information about financial assistance resources families may use to obtain an eye examination and eyeglasses, if needed, and describe how a team-based individualized Health Action Plan can serve as a facilitator to overcoming barriers to eye care.

Undiagnosed and untreated vision disorders in children ages birth through high school can interfere with learning.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe three common barriers to scheduling and attending an eye examination after receiving a referral from a vision screening.
2. Describe 3 strategies to help overcome barriers to eye care.
3. List 1 financial resource that will cover the costs of an annual eye examination and a pair of prescription glasses and one financial resource for undocumented families.

Who Should Attend?

Anyone who follows up with families after their children receive a referral from a vision screening, including school nurses, social workers, Early Head Start and Head Start staff, and early care and education professionals

Practice Points

By Louise Wilson

Toileting of Students

I am not sure of the reason but lately I have received several requests for information regarding toileting of students. Some are questions about toilet training of students entering school without that skill. Others are regarding who should be assigned to assist students who “have accidents” at school? Still other inquiries are about how to manage encopresis in older students at school.

Let me begin by acknowledging only in a school nurse newsletter would this be a topic of interest to address in a Practice Points!

A district cannot refuse entrance into four- or five-year-old-kindergarten to a child who is not toilet trained. The state statute defines eligibility by age and not by other conditions. I suspect staying home during the pandemic may have delayed toilet training for some children and schools may be dealing with an increased number of untrained children rather than those who have a medical condition. I shared an older Head Start memo with a school nurse that contained the following statement. It provides food for thought why the increased incidence of untrained children might be occurring following the pandemic and the social pressures families have experienced. It also reminds us of the need to approach each student and family with respect and compassion.

Other children's lack of, or inconsistency in toileting skills may be related to family/cultural expectations or a lack of training and reinforcement of this skill. For some children, toileting problems may be related to child abuse or neglect.



A district cannot refuse entrance into four- or five-year-old-kindergarten to a child who is not toilet trained. The state statute defines eligibility by age and not by other conditions.

If the issue is supporting the toilet training of a child who has not yet achieved that skill the district can work in several ways to address the issue:

- Check with the family regarding medical needs; work with the child's physician or make a referral for a special education evaluation if medical needs are an issue.
- Develop a plan for toilet training:
 - A school nurse, home-school liaison, or teacher can work directly with the parent to develop a plan for toilet training at home and the school.
 - If it is not possible to have a home and school plan, develop an in-school plan for toilet training.
 - Consider what strategies can be used in the classroom to support toileting success. Is there a reward system for successful toileting? Can special toileting schedules be designated for the child with accidents? Are there other children to be paired as toileting models? Are there routines times when the "accidents" happen and if so, can something be done to encourage toileting before these time? What strategies have worked at home that could be used at school? Can the child be part of the plan where he has his own goal and final reward?
 - If the child attends regulated childcare, in addition to 4K, include the teacher/family provider in the conversation and the plan.
- Consider the need for a 504 plan.
- Work with the parent to supply clean clothes and changing supplies.
- Note: a child should never be required to change/bag their own clothes.

That last bullet leads me to address the second question I often receive. Who should be assigned to help such children? I maintain that assisting with toileting, helping a student with cleaning up after an accident, or helping them change their clothing does not require a nursing license. Therefore, such duties should not be assigned to the school nurse, nor is this a delegated nursing procedure for which the school nurse must train and supervise school staff. Assistance with toileting and personal hygiene is not a nursing procedure but an activity of daily living. Support for that statement is found in the Medicaid billing standards.

Children with developmental delays may require assistance with intimate care needs and under those circumstances touching a student is an accepted practice. Not being toilet trained at age 4 or 5 is a developmental delay. Best practice is to have two staff members present to protect both the staff member and the student. If the room is too small the second person can stand outside the door and be vigilant for any unusual noises, etc.



Assistance with toileting and personal hygiene is not a nursing procedure but an activity of daily living. Support for that statement is found in the Medicaid billing standards.

It is the school administrator's role and responsibility to direct and assign staff to effectively use personnel. If school administrators are looking for resources to support staff in diaper changes or assisting students with toileting there is a training video located on the DPI webpages.

https://media.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/av/uaptraining-WISHes/story_html5.html

Encopresis is one of those issues that is difficult to address in schools. In my conversations with staff here at the Department of Public Instruction assisting children with their physical as well as their educational needs is an expectation. Section 504 of the ADA requires accommodations for students who have a disability affecting one or more of their body systems or major life activities (gastrointestinal, elimination). Strict implementation of Section 504 would have districts evaluating and then writing 504 plans for students with encopresis due to constipation or other reasons because a body system is “substantially limited.”

If a student is refusing to clean up or use the bathroom this behavior might trigger a Child Find obligation to do a special education evaluation as the incontinence and reaction of peers probably is affecting their education. The behavior does not need to affect the student's academics/grades, but communication, social relationships, and life skills are also areas that if affected may require specially designed instruction and related services. If a student is identified as requiring special education services, the need for the related services of “school health services” should be documented in the IEP.

School Nursing a Comprehensive Text (Third Edition) has a section on the physiological reasons for incontinence, enuresis, and encopresis. Other sections address assessments and interventions for these conditions.

As reported by schools nurses the number of student's experiencing toileting issues is increasing. I believe this is due to cultural and dietary patterns, parental knowledge and (lack of) parenting skills, increase in childhood trauma, and other health needs. It strikes me that there is a need for school nurses to get upstream on this issue and provide parent education on proper toileting and how to prevent constipation. School nursing is not only public health nursing, but it is also pediatric and maternal child health nursing. Schools and school nurses already do so much for students and parents. Assisting with toilet training seems to be one more responsibility added to the list.



School nursing is not only public health nursing, but it is also pediatric and maternal child health nursing. Schools and school nurses already do so much for students and parents. Assisting with toilet training seems to be one more responsibility added to the list.

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>

September 2022 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation or disability.



Mental Health of School Nurses in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic

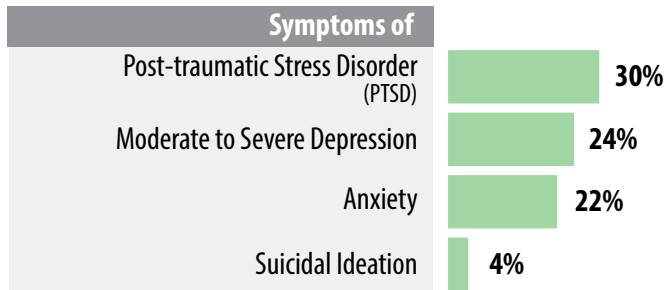
Highlights from a national survey | March 7-30, 2022



OVERVIEW

In March 2022, CDC collaborated with the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) to distribute a 121-item survey to school nurses in the U.S. Overall, 7,971 school nurses responded from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal nations, and U.S. territories.

Conditions Reported by School Nurses



Almost half (45%) reported symptoms of at least one adverse mental health condition in the two weeks prior to completing the survey.

Work-Related Stressors Reported by School Nurses Since COVID-19 Was Declared a Pandemic (March 2020)



School nurses were more likely to report symptoms of mental health conditions if they:



- Worked >40 hours weekly
- Reported inadequate staffing support or compensation
- Experienced lack of peer, supervisor, or school leadership support
- Felt unappreciated
- Worried about workplace exposure to COVID-19
- Reported stigma, discrimination, job-related threats, or harassment
- Took on additional COVID-19-related job duties, such as notifying parents about COVID-19 quarantine and isolation, and caring for students and staff suspected of having COVID-19

Overall, work-related stressors and COVID-19-related job duties were significantly associated with mental health symptoms among the school nurses who responded to the survey.

Improving school nurse mental health is essential to creating safe environments for young people in our nation's schools.

These survey findings highlight opportunities to improve supportive policies and practices to reduce workplace stressors and increase workplace supports for school nurses.

Supportive policies and practices could include providing adequate staffing, training, and support, particularly as they relate to COVID-19 or future public health emergencies.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

TRAUMA INFORMED RESILIENT SCHOOLS ONLINE TRAINING

OCT 25, 2022 | 9AM-11AM | ON ZOOM

This presentation is for participants who already have a basic understanding of trauma and its impact on a student's school experience.

The focus will be on sharing tools educators can use to assess and support student needs. A model of resilience will be presented to help educators create trauma-informed, resilience-focused behavior support plans. The concept of private logic will be introduced.

Participants will learn how to conduct a simple private logic assessment, another tool that can be used to direct interventions and supports for traumatized and at-risk students.

[CLICK HERE](#)
OR SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO REGISTER



SCAN FOR TRAINING INFO



FEATURING
DR. CAELAN SOMA

This session is **free** to all participants. Live participation is encouraged to gain the full benefit of engaging in discussion with a learning community. This session will be recorded and sent to all who register in advance of the session.

Session questions? Contact:

Alissa Darin, WISH Center Regional Coordinator, adarin@cesa1.k12.wi (262-787-9500, ext. 9786)
Julie Incitti, DPI School Social Work Consultant, julie.incitti@dpi.wi.gov (608) 266-0963

DR. CAELAN SOMA

Dr. Caelan Soma, PsyD, LMSW, Chief Clinical Officer, provides oversight for all clinical operations and research at Starr Commonwealth.

Dr. Soma provides trauma assessment and trauma-informed, resilience-focused intervention for youth utilizing evidence-based practices, including Starr's SITCAP® model programs.

She has been involved in helping with the aftermath of disasters such as Sandy Hook, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and others. She has authored several books, the most recent, *10 Steps to Create a Trauma-Informed Resilient School* and *Healing the Experience of Trauma: A Path to Resilience*.

She is an internationally acclaimed speaker and trainer, and is the instructor for many Starr courses, including *Children of Trauma* and *Resilience and Structured Sensory Interventions II*. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology at California Southern University, where she received the 2013 CalSouthern President's Award.

Dr. Soma also has a private practice outside of Detroit, Michigan.

HOSTED BY

