School Nursing in Alameda County

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School Nurses: Qualifications & Education

- Registered Nurses
- Possess a Baccalaureate Degree
- Hold a School Nurse Services Credential (additional 1 year program)
- Certificated School Audiometrists
- Complete over 30 hours of continuing education every 2 years

**Additionally, many school nurses:**
- Are licensed Public Health Nurses
- Are MSN (Master’s of Science in Nursing) prepared
- Possess additional certifications (e.g. Nurse practitioner, CPR instructor, National School Nurse Certification)
The Many Roles of the School Nurse

- Health Care Provider
- Care Coordination/Case Management
- Emergency Responder
- Screen Vision and Hearing
- Special Education Team Member
- Health Educator
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- Environmental Health and Safety Advocate
- Promote Health Equity/Reduce Health Disparities
- Mental Health Provider
Alameda County Students 2021-22 → 214,600 in TK-12
- 10% (or more) asthma & current symptoms
- 8% food allergies
- Dental caries
- Seizures
- Other chronic conditions (including COVID)
- Responsible for Immunizations

Kids Data: https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2222/special-education-disability-prevalence/table#fmt=2775&loc=2&tf=110&ch=220&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc
Pediatric Public Health Population

- Responsible for primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
- Immunizations
- Vision and hearing screening
- Collaboration with community healthcare agencies and HCPs

Kids Data: [https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2222/special-education-disability-prevalence/table#fmt=2775&loc=2&tf=110&ch=220&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/2222/special-education-disability-prevalence/table#fmt=2775&loc=2&tf=110&ch=220&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc)
School Nurse as a Community Health Coordinator

- Coordinates with County Health Department in identifying and tracking communicable diseases and other health trends
- Immunization clinics e.g., flu and COVID for students, staff, and families
- Refers students and their families to community health and social service resources when needed
- Often serves as a lifeline for at risk-students – recognizing and intervening for behavioral issues, malnutrition, abuse, and bullying
School Nurse as a Health Educator

- School nurses are often the most accessible resource for credible, reliable health information.
- Educate staff about health conditions, emergency medications, immunizations.
- Provide individual education to students about their health conditions.
- Provide classroom education and educate families and staff about vital health topics.
School Nurses are Mental Health Providers

- The school nurse is often the first to identify a mental health issue.
- School nurses are trained to provide mental health services.
- School nurses provide referral to school-based and/or community-based mental health providers for ongoing care.

Supporting Student Attendance

School days missed Among Children with Special Healthcare Needs in CA 2016-2019

Kids Data: https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/464/cshcn-missing-school/piefmt=617&loc=2,1&tf=139&ch=190,191,192,193&pdist=58
School Nurses Promote Health Equity

Difficulty Accessing Community-Based Services for California Children with Special Health Care Needs (2009-2010)


Kids Data: https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/66/special-needs-unmet-need/pie?fmt=311&loc=2,1&ch=139,140&pdist=117
School Nurses Promote Health Equity by...

**Addressing Social Determinants of Health:**
- Direct care, medical referrals, connect to community resources, health promotion, illness prevention, advocacy, health education, social services. *Future of Nursing 2020-2030*

**Advancing student, staff, family, community Health Literacy:**
- Build individual and community capacity to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions that are health enhancing. *Health Framework for California Public Schools*
Excluded from team at State level (CDE)
No School Nurse Consultant at COE
Some districts turned to school nurses
Some districts excluded school nurses
Some districts directed school nurse practice
Advocated for invitation to CAG
Special accomplishments & initiatives

Developed guidance for school nurses on vision and hearing screening
Reviewed by ACPHD
Adopted and incorporated into school COVID guidance

Testing
Contact tracing
Collaboration with ACPHD
Staff, family, student education and guidance
AC PHD had monthly meetings 2005-2020
10-20 school nurses

Since April 2020 every 1-2 weeks
AC PHD representative
ACOE representative
Over 100 school nurses on email distribution list
Spring 2021 ~60 school nurses on weekly Zoom meetings
Currently 2nd and 4th Wednesday
  One business meeting
  One professional development meeting

Networking
Updates
Special accomplishments & initiatives

Policy changes

Access to Naloxone

- Piedmont (p 156)
- Livermore
- San Leandro
- New Haven
- Alameda
- Castro Valley

Access to medical cannabis

Oakland
How can we work together?

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References


- National Association of School Nurses. (n.d.). The essential role of your school nurse. [Powerpoint].


Acknowledgement

This presentation is based on the Essential Role of the School Nurse Powerpoint presentation developed by the National Association of School Nurses. (n.d.). It has been adapted by the School Nurses of California Foundation to support school nurses in promoting and educating school personnel, administrators, and community leaders about their unique role in supporting the health and wellbeing of California’s children and communities.