

# WHY ALL SCHOOLS NEED A REGISTERED SCHOOL NURSE TO RE-OPEN



## SAFETY

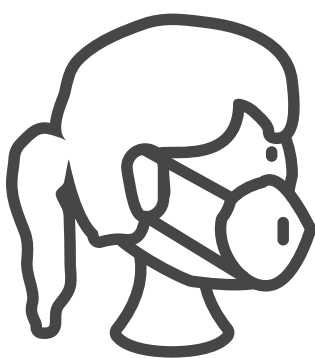
Most, but not all, schools have a Registered School Nurse. The COVID-19 epidemic will require professional nursing knowledge and assessments to SAFELY re-open schools.

## NURSING ASSESSMENTS

Only RNs can legally make professional nursing assessments per Virginia Board of Nursing regulations. LPNs and CNAs practice under the license of an RN in schools and collect data for assessments, but may not make nursing assessments. **COVID-19 will require daily, multiple nursing assessments and screenings by an RN.**



## EPIDEMIOLOGY & DISEASE SURVEILLANCE



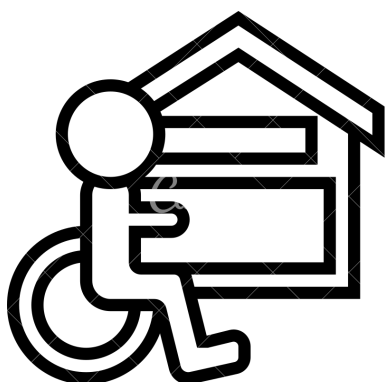
RNs receive formal education in infection control and epidemiology and can provide communicable disease surveillance and assistance in determining safe practices to utilize such as use of PPE, cleaning, safe distancing, and modifying usual school practices to be safer. RNs can aid health departments in **contact tracing** of students or staff who develop COVID-19.

## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

RNs are educated in mental health nursing and can assess when students might need behavioral health counseling or other behavioral health supports and make appropriate mental health referrals when needed. COVID-19 and the resulting health and economic effects have greatly increased mental health issues among children. Students with anxiety-related symptoms log more visits to school nurses.



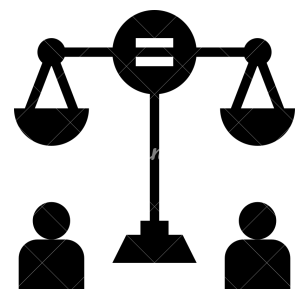
## CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS



CDC estimates 25% of students have chronic health conditions, and students with chronic health conditions are more vulnerable to complications of COVID-19. Only RNs can approve Individualized Healthcare Plans for students in schools. In addition, school staff working at school may have chronic conditions requiring assessment by a professional nurse.

## EQUITABLE CARE FOR ALL

All students deserve equitable access to professional school nursing services. Parents are expecting that their children will return to school with adequate safeguards to their health.



**SAFE, HEALTHY, READY TO LEARN!**

**SUPPORT SCHOOL NURSES IN EVERY SCHOOL**

Our children need our support!