

TO: Eric Waddell, Superintendent
FROM: Shay Stathoplos, Director of Nursing Services, RN,BSN,NCSN
DATE: September 2020
RE: Acknowledgements and Quarterly Report for the School Committee

Before beginning the quarterly report in which I will be breaking from my typical reporting style, the nurses wanted to publically acknowledge our gratitude and thanks to the Kittery School Team. Eric, thank you for your meaningful and compassionate leadership at a time when we need it most. The Kittery Promise is especially meaningful for school nurses because it does take a community to keep our school healthy in the midst of a pandemic. We thank Mark Everett and his crew for working hard to maintain a safe and clean environment, setting up isolation rooms and exhaust fans, moving our offices about to help us with our new workflow, and obtaining the necessary PPE. Thank you, Nancy Embry for keeping us in contact with families, staff, and students in a number of ways and in her typical thoughtful fashion. Thanks to Lauren Lawson for listening and pointing us in the right direction time and time again. We are grateful to our building administrators who have created plans to keep safety protocols in place, remain open, flexible, and supportive. Thank you to the secretaries who have helped us keep track of paperwork, supplies and sick calls. We thank the technology folks who have kept us connected. We also want to acknowledge and thank the families that have kept their children home this past month when they have had symptoms that could be allergies, colds or Covid -19. They have followed the protocols established by DOE and have been understanding while doing it. Finally, the school staff that have stepped up to abide by safety protocols and put aside their fears to provide students with a positive learning experience.

July: Nursing participated in helping to plan Summer School Covid -19 protocols at each building and one school nurse worked the summer program to pilot illness protocols. AED replacements were obtained and distributed and the old AEDs were returned. Return to school protocols discussed in multiple forums and webinars attended to stay up to date. Standing Orders for Over-the Counter medications were obtained. Flu clinics scheduled and coordinated. Nurses begin the task of planning their office workflow in the midst of the pandemic.

August: Health plans written and/or updated and health records are reviewed for new students. Nurses collaborate with nutrition around dietary issues. Custodial staff works with nursing around isolation rooms, PEE and cleaning protocols. The nurses continue to plan on workflow to keep those students with illness apart from those with injury. Coordination of communication and care with local health systems begins. Nurses collaborated in the implementation of DOE & CDC recommendations

September: Tracking of and obtaining immunizations and physical exams continue. A working relationship is established with Pediatric Associates of York and Dr. Vinograd has already offered us invaluable guidance. We have worked with York Hospital to pave the way for employees to obtain rapid testing if needed. Final planning for the flu clinics has been done. The day-to-day care of students as well as we work out the kinks of the new work flow. Daily calls occur to parents who have called students out sick to determine next steps for them and return to school.

Professional Development: Nurses worked with state, national and international school nurse groups to remain up to date with Covid- 19 information, particularly as it pertains to schools. Other topics of study this quarter included: Respiratory Protection Program, John Hopkins Contact Tracing, DOE Nursing Covid Standard Operating Procedure training, Grief, Loss and Bereavement, Maintaining Optimal Care During Covid, Certification in Pediatric Vision Screening, MEMA Incident Command, Maine AAP webinars, APHA (American Public Health Assoc.) webinars, weekly DOE School Nurse meetings, Emotional First Aid, and Various technology trainings