

**Nursing Department**  
**Shay Stathoplos, Director of Nursing Services**  
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**What challenges did you and your department need to overcome when we entered a remote learning deployment?**

The greatest challenge was to more fully integrate health into an educational setting. Nursing is typically a 'hands on' modality in schools with the primary focus being on student health. Being unable to have children face to face or an official platform to reach them we shifted our focus to supporting the staff and families of our school communities in a public health manner. Our goals were to provide education about the new virus, promote prevention and safe social habits, offer emotional support, and provide community resources. We had begun the work of moving into prevention mode prior to remote learning so we were equipped with the most current knowledge to help guide our school community. We aided in the establishment of protocols for entering the buildings, handing out or returning supplies, graduation, summer programming and kindergarten registration, as well as education and prevention methods. We utilized social media and Internet platforms to get information to our community (as seen below). We have long been active in our state and national school nursing communities. We are currently part of an international school nurse community in an effort to learn what is working in other countries as schools have reopened.

Resources for the community:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/112tjyHFzxfKE7ah7pCLeYtwq\\_SqY3GZ](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/112tjyHFzxfKE7ah7pCLeYtwq_SqY3GZ)

Nursing Blog:

<https://kitteryschoolnurses.blogspot.com/>

**Looking forward and recognizing that 'business as usual' may not be upon us in the fall, how will you adjust in order for your department to meet the needs of our students?**

The nursing department will be focusing more than usual on public health measures to support students and teachers in classrooms by becoming more mobile in order to reduce movement within the building. We will be going to the classroom when a student need arises. We will be supporting school operations as a whole in how to safely conduct screenings, assessments and daily activities. We will isolate ill students quickly and safely. We will aid the state in contact tracing once the processes are in place and if vaccines or testing becomes available to schools we will join that effort as well. We will educate regarding proper use of personal protective equipment for students and staff as well as good hand hygiene, as we usually do, though some of this might be more virtual than in times past. We will partner with the local health community as much as possible to be aware of our current local situation. We will continue to support routine health care in the face of a pandemic by acting as a liaison when needed for parents and students. And we will remain active on school nursing communities to assure that our practice is as up to date as possible.