



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

School/Public Health Nurse Coordination Meeting Notes 10/2/20

Participants:

- School Nurses and Nurse Leaders from Union 28, Mahar, Mohawk Trail, Union 38, Gill/Montague, Pioneer Valley.
- Public Health Nurses: CPHS (15 towns), Foothills (Whately, Williamsburg, Goshen, Westhampton), Greenfield
- Scribe: Phoebe Walker, FRCOG

Resources to share from this meeting:

- School Nurse Contact List – Attached please find the list in a ledger sized PDF. Here is link to update your information:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11sdPmopACibDCfkhjFGdDjiPkkvVQKDG/view?usp=sharing>
- Public Health Nurse Contact List: <https://frcog.org/about/local-public-health-covid-19-case-management-contacts/>
- Link to School Health Unit folder with template language for communicating about COVID: DESE Family Communications Toolkit:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1R9HZDrsneLJ2gKulmt2EQzAE1poTW2V?usp=sharingDiscussion>

Discussion Items from 10/2/20 Meeting

How is each district handling sick staff: Mohawk, Union 28 and Mahar shared that the school nurses were calling sick staff if the staff member had not proactively let the nurse know why they were out. Mahar asks those with COVID symptoms to be tested. Frontier is not calling sick staff – they fill out a google form, hopefully. There was discussion about staff using sick time vs. FFCRA and whether the school nurse has a role in confirming that the FFCRA use was legitimate.

When to call town nurse with sick student – anytime a COVID test is ordered, school nurses are giving the public health nurses a heads-up. Greenfield Health Department wants to know if anyone from Greenfield is ordered to stay home from school in another town.

Sick family member – unless and until a family member tests positive, their siblings/spouses/children may come to school.

Metrics for school closing: Union 28 nurses shared that they have been asked for their feedback on the district's proposed metrics and were not sure how to approach it. Clarified that it is not the

responsibility of school nurses to come up with these metrics, but rather the local board of health in partnership with the district. The group reviewed the data available for our region at <https://www.publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data/Franklin>, including the state risk map, and why some of it might be good to use for school closure metrics and some might not. Meg Burch of Frontier/Union 38 offered to share the metrics that their school has develop in partnership with the local public health nurses and boards of health. [The Frontier Metrics can be seen by clicking here.](#)

Medical Waiting Room staff person

Many communities are using CARES funding to hire someone for this position, which must be staffed by someone who must be CPR First Aid certified.

Medical waiting room language from 8/19/20 DESE and DPH Joint Memo:

As noted in previous DESE guidance, schools must establish a separate room for students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who may have learned about a positive test result while at school, while waiting to be picked up by a family member. This space must be supervised. If feasible given space and staffing constraints, schools are encouraged to provide individual students with their own waiting room. If more than one student is in the same waiting room at a time, each student must be at least 6 feet apart (and should be spaced as far apart as possible) and wearing a surgical mask (non-N95 and non-cloth) while in the medical waiting room. If a student does not already have a surgical mask, the school should provide one. Schools must also be equipped with the PPE for the staff involved with supervision of the waiting room.

Melissa B is seeking a job description for this role, which Gill/Montague will require to have a CNA or LPN certification. Can the School Health Unit offer a job description? Mahar is also hiring someone, with a CPR certification, and will use the person to help with Nurse paperwork/parent communication. Challenge: positions have to be under 20 hours or they have to have benefits.

Melissa reported that if no hires are found, Greenfield and Turners Falls firefighters will sign up for overtime shifts to cover the medical waiting room, again paid for out of CARES.

Follow Up Items

- All – update contact list by 10/8
- Phoebe Walker send out contact lists
- Meg Burch --Job description for medical waiting room? Ask SHU.