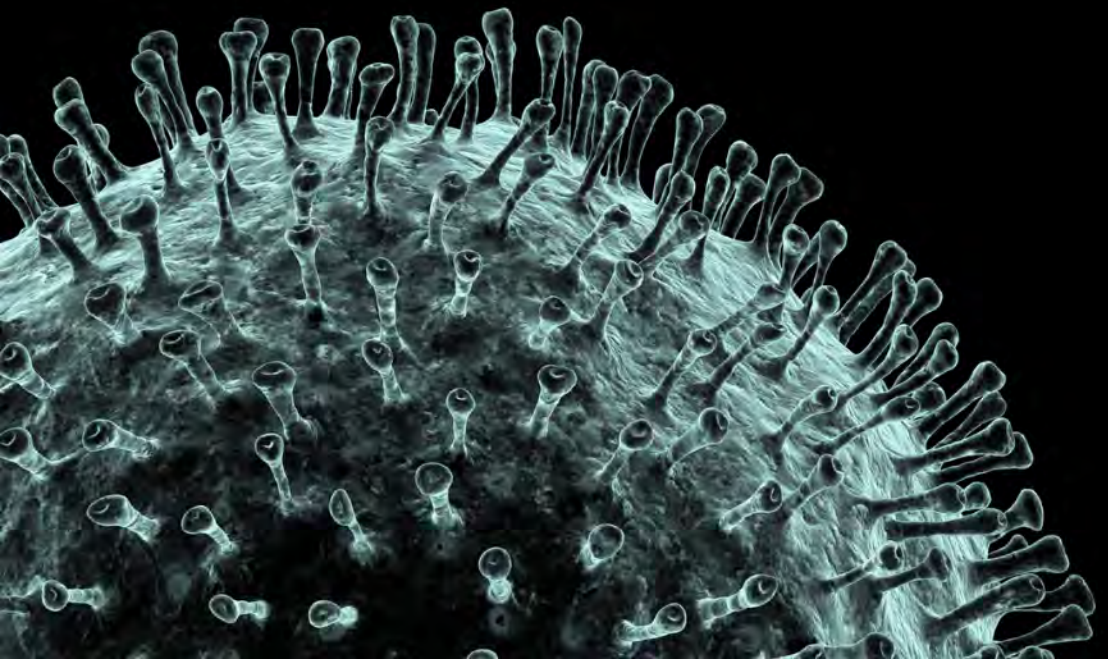
COVID-19 Conversations

Donna Mazyck

Executive Director
National Association of School Nurses

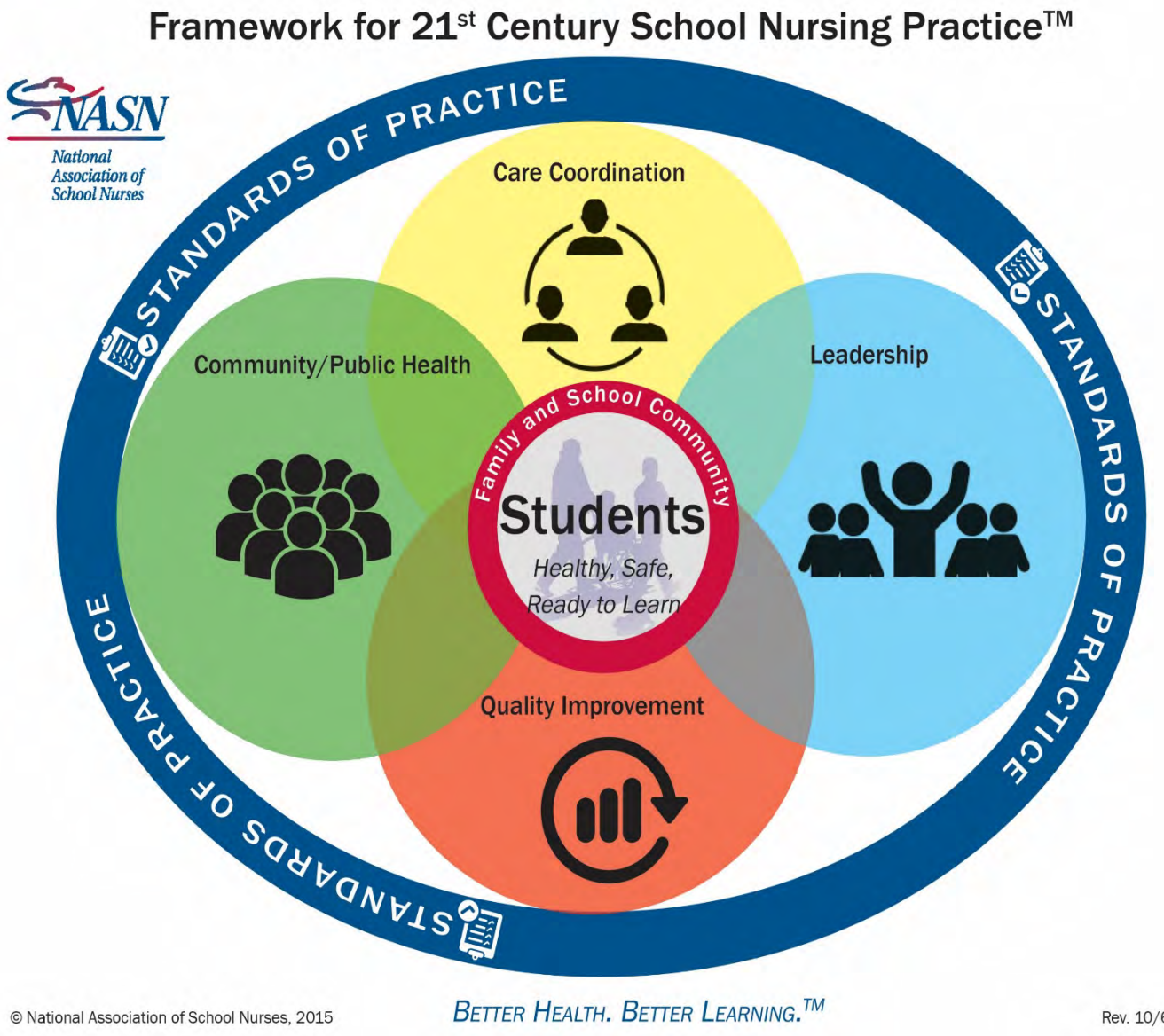


COVID19Conversations.org
#COVID19Conversations

APHA
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
For science. For action. For health.

50 years
NATIONAL ACADEMY of MEDICINE

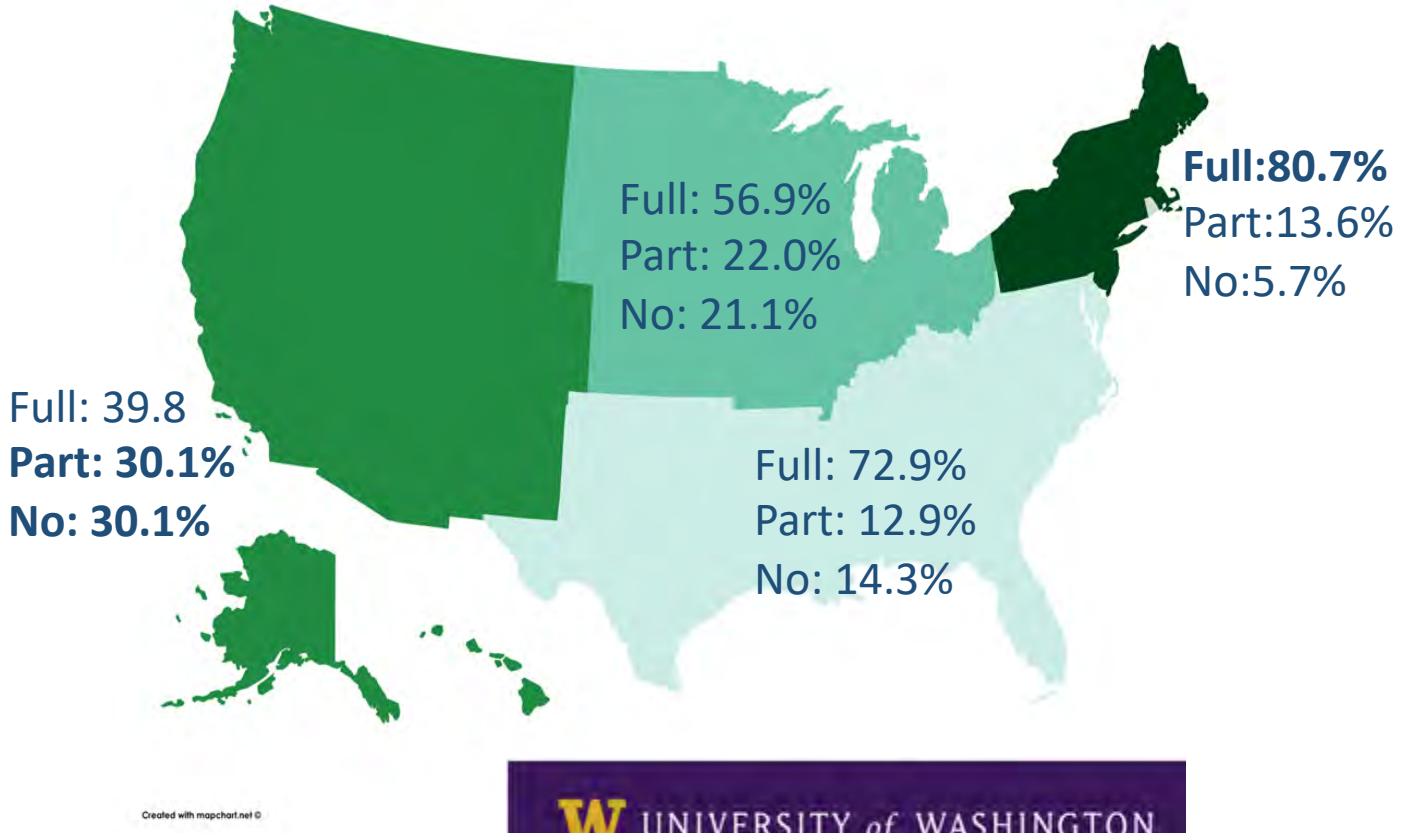
School Nurses: Frontline Healthcare Providers in Schools



School Nurse Workforce

Willgerodt, M.A., Brock, D. M., & Maughan, E.M. (2018). Public school nursing practice in the United States. *Journal of School Nursing, 34(3)*, 232-244

- 35.3% of schools employ part-time school nurses (< 35 hours)
- 39.3% of schools employ full-time school nurses (> 35 hours)
- Across the country 25.2% of schools did not employ a school nurse



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

NASN National Association of School Nurses

April 2020 School Nurse Survey: Impact of COVID-19

Participants: N=4788 - All 50 states & DC - 92% Frontline school nurses

Role of School Nurses During COVID-19

- Student Outreach
  - 54% reached students at risk;
  - 32% assisted with meal delivery
- Health Resources Expert
  - 48% calls with parents/community
  - 44% virtual office hours
  - 18% virtual support groups
  - 17% screening staff or others coming to schools
- Managing Chronic Health Conditions
  - 72% meds/equipment return to parents
  - 71% work on student healthcare plan
  - 28% assisted students manage health
- Education
  - 45% educate staff on COVID-19
  - 35% circulate local health dept info
  - 30% classes/videos on COVID-19

April 2020 School Nurse Survey: Impact of COVID-19

Participants: N=4788 - All 50 states & DC - 92% Frontline school nurses

Are Schools Prepared for COVID-19 ? (had personal protective equipment on hand at time of survey)

20% - face shields

24% - no space for isolation in health office

25% - disposable gowns

27% - limited budget to buy PPE

28% - N95 masks

33% - goggles

78% - surgical masks

96% - hand sanitizer

98% - hand soap

99% - gloves

Reopening Schools: Pandemic Readiness Plan

- Value health and safety of the school community
- Plan with interprofessional and interagency participants including school nurse and public health authority
- Focus on science-based, evidence-based decision-making
- Use an equity lens
- Consider social, emotional, mental and behavioral health needs of the school community
- Plan collaborations for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing

Challenges and Opportunities