

What are Oregon's school nurses* doing?

As of 2020, registered nurses (RNs) serve students in 136 of Oregon's 197 school districts. Oregon's recommended ratio is 1 full-time RN for every 750 students. On average, RNs in Oregon schools serve at ratios closer to 1 full-time RN per 2500 students.

**In Oregon, "school nurse" is defined as a registered nurse who is certified by Teacher's Standards and Practices Committee (TSPC) to conduct and coordinate school health services. [ORS 342.455] Per Oregon education law, districts may hire a registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse, to provide nursing services to students. [OAR 581-022-0222]*

Supporting students with chronic conditions.

Registered nurses assess needs, develop care plans and address accommodations to reduce health-related barriers to education. Nurse support may continue whether students are in-person or distance learning.

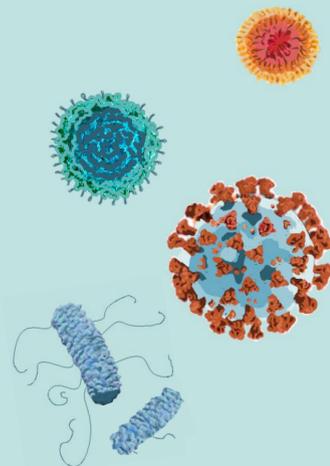


State and federal law require districts to provide nursing services to students as needed to access Free and Appropriate Public Education.

School exclusions due to illness.

Nurses evaluate individuals and provide guidance about symptoms, isolation, and quarantine.

School nurses are uniquely qualified to serve as point-of-contact between schools and local public health.



Training school staff.

Registered nurses train school staff to provide specialized student care; to follow health protocols; to respond to emergencies; and to administer medications and life-saving treatments, as allowed by Oregon laws.



Safety efforts for in-person learning

By August 2020, **80%** of nurses were engaged in re-entry planning to support their schools.

20% of nurses reported a school leadership role planning and implementing *Ready Schools Blueprints*.



Social, emotional, and mental health support.

Nurses collaborate with school mental health teams. Registered nurses diagnose "human response to condition," considering both physical and social/emotional issues. School nurses recognize whole-person health is essential for academic success.



Guiding school health practices and policies.

Nurses help translate health information into evidence-based practice and protocols for the school setting.

Registered nurses may work with district leadership to review and revise school health policies.



Acute care and daily needs.

Nurses respond to health issues that arise during the school day.



While most of Oregon's students are learning remotely in 2020-2021, most of Oregon's school districts have some staff and students on campus, such as for limited in-person instruction.

Prepared by the Oregon Health Authority's State School Nurse Consultant, December 2020.

Sources:

- [2020 School Nurse Annual Report](#) published by the Oregon Department of Education
- [Oregon School Nurse Manual](#), Version 2.0, edited by the School Nurse Advisory Group
- 2020 School Nurse Surveys conducted by OHA SSNC and Oregon School Nurses' Association
- [Oregon Nurse Practice Act](#): ORS 678.021 to 023, **License required to practice nursing; use of the title "nurse"**; OAR 851-45-0000 to 0060, **Standards and Scope of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse**; OAR 851-047-0000 to 0040 **Standards for Community Based Care Registered Nurse Delegation Process**.
- Oregon education laws: ORS 342.455 **Definition of school nurse**; ORS 336.201 **Nursing services provided by district**; OAR 581-015-2000, **Special Education**; OAR 581-022-2220, **Health Services**.