



Georgia Department of Education

Georgia School Nurse NEWS

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EDUCATING GEORGIA'S FUTURE

FEBRUARY 2017

American Heart Month

FEBRUARY NATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- ⇒ [American Heart Month](#)
- ⇒ [National Children's Dental Health Month](#)
- ⇒ [Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [AMD/Low Vision Awareness Month](#)
- ⇒ [Feb 1-7 African Heritage and Health Week](#)
- ⇒ Feb 3 [Give Kids a Smile Day](#) and [National Wear Red Day](#)
- ⇒ Feb 4 [World Cancer Day](#)
- ⇒ Feb 7-14 [Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week](#)



The articles and hyperlinks to external websites appearing in the School Nurse News are intended to be informational and do not represent an endorsement by the Georgia Department of Education. (GaDOE).

DEFINITION OF SCHOOL NURSING

School nursing, a specialized practice of public health nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates normal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders that bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potentials. **Approved by the NASN**



UPCOMING SCHOOL NURSE WORKSHOPS

Regional School Nurse Updates...

- ⇒ **February 3, 2017** from 12:00pm-3:30pm at the Newton College and Career Academy Lecture Hall
- ⇒ **February 8, 2017** from 9:00am-12:00pm at Pioneer RESA in Cleveland, Georgia
- ⇒ **March 31, 2017** from 9:00am-1:00pm Social Circle City Schools 147 Alcova Drive Social Circle, GA
- ⇒ **May 24, 2017** from 9:00am-1:00pm NEGA RESA Boardroom 375 Winter Street Winterville, GA

Youth Mental Health First Aid

- ⇒ **March 16, 2017** from 8am-4pm at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Tullie Office Park Learning Center.



AROUND THE STATE



Athens, GA - The Clarke County School District continues to take steps to place student wellness at the forefront, with a recent initiative resulting in placing one nurse at each of the district's 21 schools. The data-based proposal was drafted after school administrators, teachers and parents repeatedly expressed their wishes to have more nurses serving students, 80% of whom qualify for free and reduced lunch. Last year, the district employed 13 nurses, with two high schools and two elementary schools having full-time nurses. The proposal to increase nursing staff, which included a detailed cost analysis, was led by Director of Nursing Amy Roark, and was built around placing a full-time nurse in all four middle schools, and hiring an additional four part-time nurses to staff the elementary schools. A leader in K-12 wellness, then-Superintendent Philip Lanoue took the proposal a step further by recommending the hiring of a total of eight nurses to have the district fully staffed. The Clarke County School Board showed strong support, voting unanimously to approve the superintendent's recommendation. The nurses were hired immediately and, today, all 21 nurses are in place, serving children every day in school clinics across the district.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Funding Opportunity

This is a reminder that applications are due by February 16, 2017, for RFA-CE-17-002: [Development and Evaluation of Sports Concussion Prevention Strategies](#). The Revised FOA (funding opportunity announcement) can be found under Related Documents; it includes questions/answers from the January 5 pre-application call.

⇒ Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation AED Grants

Quarterly Application Deadlines:

- Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM for 2nd Quarter Grants
- Friday, June 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM for 3rd Quarter Grants
- Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 5:00 PM for 4th Quarter Grants
- Friday, December 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM for 1st Quarter Grants (Q1 2018)



TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

School Nurse Tobacco-Free Schools Taskforce Conference Call:

February 27th 3:00pm-4:00pm

Please contact Sara Kroening

(sara.kroening@dph.ga.gov) for more information!



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

⇒ **Injury Control Research Center for Suicide Prevention (ICRC-S) Webinar**

At 1:00-2:00 CST on February 8, 2017, the ICRC-S will present the first webinar in its series Critical Issues in Suicide Prevention and Research and Practice. The suicide rate among U.S. middle school-aged children doubled between 2007 and 2014, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In [Understanding Data and Prevention Strategies for Addressing Suicide Deaths among Children Ages 10-14](#), CDC author Sally Curtain will explain the data/trends.

⇒ **Behavioral health assistance for victims of the tornados in South Georgia**

Anyone experiencing a behavioral health crisis should call the [Georgia Crisis and Access Line \(GCAL\)](#) at 1-800-715-4225. Resources can also be found at <http://georgiadisaster.info>.

⇒ **Suicide Prevention Resource Center**

Adolescence is a time of change, when young people may experience stress from many sources, including relationships with friends and family members and problems at school. Many high school students report thinking about suicide, and in 2014, suicide was the second leading cause of death among young people ages 13 to 19 years. The [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#) has many resources and programs to assist you with suicide prevention in your school.

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

Dear Georgia School Nurses,

Greetings! I hope you received your Save the Date Card for the 25th annual GASN conference this summer June 19th-21st, 2017 at the lovely Savannah Riverfront Hyatt! We are all very excited and have a great line-up of speakers and exhibitors.

You will meet new "School Nurse" friends and enjoy talking with school nurses that have been in the field for 25+ years. All of us "seasoned" School Nurses know how much we have to rely on each other to work in this very specialized profession of School Health. You don't have to do it alone!

This brings me to a few of the reasons why you should attend conference:

- ◆ **To equip yourself with best practice for school nurses**
- ◆ **Network with other school nurses**
- ◆ **Continuing education credits**
- ◆ **Have fun while learning and interacting**
- ◆ **To motivate you for the next school year**

Please join us as we learn and celebrate 25 years of Georgia School Nurses and the contributions you make each and everyday!

Lisa Morrison, President Elect

Georgia Association of School Nurses



ASSOCIATION
OF
**GEORGIA
SCHOOL
NURSES**

CHOA RESOURCES

Eighteen percent of children in the United States have a chronic medical condition. A well-trained school health professional can help these children manage their health and stay in school. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta works closely with school health personnel throughout the state to provide them with educational materials, training and support.

The Children's Regional School Health Coordinator, Gail Smith, provides the following services:

- ◆ [School nurse updates](#) and webinars on clinical pediatric topics
- ◆ Staff education for school districts in metro Atlanta
- ◆ Reviews and revisions of the [school health manual](#)
- ◆ Serve as prime contact for school nurses to call to discuss programmatic needs and difficult cases
- ◆ Provide the CHOA/DPH [Common Infectious Illness poster](#)
- ◆ Offer [Strong4Life webinars](#) and resources
- ◆ [Behavioral Health resources](#)

For questions or requests, please contact:

Gail Smith, B.S.N., R.N.

Regional School Nurse Coordinator

Phone: 404-785-7202

Cell: 404-395-8067

Email: Gail.Smith@choa.org

Web Page: <http://www.choa.org/schoolhealth>

Want to receive School Health News:

[http://pages.choa.org/School-Nurse-](http://pages.choa.org/School-Nurse-OptIn.html)

[OptIn.html](http://pages.choa.org/School-Nurse-OptIn.html)



HELPFUL LINKS

- ⇒ [ASTHMA](#)
- ⇒ [BACK TO SCHOOL TOOLKIT](#)
- ⇒ [CHILDHOOD OBESITY](#)
- ⇒ [CULTURAL COMPETENCY](#)
- ⇒ [DELEGATION](#)
- ⇒ [DIABETES IN CHILDREN](#)
- ⇒ [DISASTER PREPAREDNESS](#)
- ⇒ [DOCUMENTATION IN SCHOOL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [DRUG ABUSE](#)
- ⇒ [ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [FOOD ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS](#)
- ⇒ [IMMUNIZATIONS](#)
- ⇒ [HEAD LICE](#)
- ⇒ [MENTAL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [ORAL HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICIES](#)
- ⇒ [SEASONAL INFLUENZA](#)
- ⇒ [SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH](#)
- ⇒ [VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS](#)
- ⇒ [VISION AND EYE HEALTH](#)

***Resources obtained from the [National Association of School Nurses Website](#)



National
Association of
School Nurses

GEORGIA ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the lungs and airways that causes recurrent episodes of wheezing, coughing, breathlessness, and chest tightness.

Why Asthma?

There is a higher rate of asthmatic children in Georgia compared to the U.S. as a whole.¹ In addition, among school-aged children who are not diagnosed with asthma, an average of 15% still show frequent asthma-like symptoms.^{2,3} Therefore, it is important to recognize the symptoms and to understand what to do when your child is sick. Although asthma symptoms can occur throughout the year, cold weather in the Winter and allergy season in the Spring can worsen asthma symptoms.

What can you do to help children you serve with asthma?

Know the common symptoms*:

- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- Chest tightness, pain, or pressure
- Coughing (especially at night)

**If you recognize any of these symptoms (especially if your child is not currently diagnosed with asthma), be sure to call your child's doctor to set up an asthma assessment. Please note that not every person with asthma has the same symptoms in the same way.*

Know the common triggers:

- Dust mites
- Pets (animal dander)
- Cockroaches
- Fungi and molds (indoor and outdoor)
- Pollen
- Poor air quality (smog/pollution)
- Tobacco smoke**

***For information and/or resources for quitting smoking, please call the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line at 1-877-270-STOP at no cost to you.*

Getting ahead of asthma:

Recommend parents keep routine asthma wellness visits with your child's primary care provider, at least every 6 months (or as often as he or she suggests).

Work with parent or child's doctor to create an Asthma Action Plan, and share this Plan with your child's school nurse.

You can find the Georgia Department of Public Health's recommended Asthma Action Plan online at <https://dph.georgia.gov/Asthma>.

Make sure children take their medicines as their health care providers suggest.

Know the difference between reliever and controller medications.

Did you know?

In Georgia, school-aged students can self-administer and carry their reliever medication on their person when at school.

If you feel your child has the maturity and ability to self-administer, talk to your child's doctor and school health personnel about the appropriate forms to complete.

Senate Bill 126 was passed to authorize elementary and secondary schools in public and private settings to stock a supply of albuterol/levalbuterol and to administer to any child believed to be experiencing respiratory distress. Ask your school administration about adopting these emergency procedures.

Call to Action – What can you do for your school(s)?

Become recognized as an Asthma Friendly School (AFS)! This initiative is a comprehensive approach to asthma management in schools that aligns with the CDC's Strategies for Addressing Asthma within a Coordinated School Health Program. AFS provides the framework that local schools can use to work toward creating a supportive and safe learning environment. To learn how to advocate for the adoption of asthma friendly schools please download our step-by-step toolkit at: https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/GACP%20Childcare%20Toolkit_vfinal_080515.pdf

The Georgia Asthma Control Program's mission is to improve asthma control and reduce its burden in Georgia through policy and environmental change, asthma management education, and an integrated care delivery system. For any inquiries or for more information, you may contact the program at DPH-Asthmaprogram@dph.ga.gov or visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/Asthma>

1. 2014 Asthma Prevalence Report (<https://dph.georgia.gov/asthma-surveillance>)

2. Yeatts K, Davis KJ, Sotir M, Herget C, Shy C. Who gets diagnosed with asthma? Frequent wheeze among adolescents with and without a diagnosis of asthma. *Pediatrics*. 2003 May; 111(5 Pt 1):1046-54.

3. Akinbami LJ, Moorman JE, Garbe PL, Sondik EJ. Status of Childhood Asthma in the United States, 1980-2007. *Pediatrics* 2009; 123; S131