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May 11, 2022

Dear Vermont School Nurses,

National Nurse's Week begins May 6th and concludes on May 12th with National School Nurse Day on May 11, 2022. The Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Education would like to take this opportunity to recognize and express deep appreciation for the immense dedication of Vermont's school nurses who support the children and families of Vermont.

We recognize that Vermont's school nurses make a profound difference in the lives of every child and youth they serve, positively affecting families and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the essential role school nurses play in student health and academic success. School nurses serve a critical role in improving public health and they address home and community factors that impact a student's health. These dedicated professionals act as a liaison to the school community, families, and healthcare providers on behalf of children's health by promoting wellness and improving health outcomes for Vermont's children. School nurses understand the link between health and learning and are in a position to make a difference for children every day. Vermont's school nurses rose to meet the increased challenges of COVID-19 by innovating on their feet and adapting to new and constantly changing expectations.

The Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education celebrate and acknowledge the accomplishments of Vermont's school nurses and their efforts of meeting the needs of Vermont's students by improving the delivery of healthcare in schools. We are grateful to Vermont school nurses who contribute to our local communities by helping students stay healthy, in school, and ready to learn, and keeping parents and guardians at work at every opportunity throughout this year. We admire our school nurses for their support in helping children, youth, and families through these changing and challenging times.

To all of Vermont's school nurses: Your work matters; you have been there for Vermont's children, youth, and families, supporting them through continued collaboration, compassion, and knowledge sharing. Vermont's children and youth emerge from your care with a love of lifelong learning and a solid foundation for growth. We sincerely value your hard work, resilience, and dedication. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan French'.

Daniel M. French, Ed.D.
Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Levine'.

Mark A. Levine, M.D.
Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health
