



11-8-2021

Educating School Nurses: Returning to School During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kelle Flynn-Gulley

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, kflynn11@vols.utk.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/dnp>



Part of the [Maternal, Child Health and Neonatal Nursing Commons](#), [Pediatric Nursing Commons](#), [Public Health and Community Nursing Commons](#), and the [Public Health Education and Promotion Commons](#)

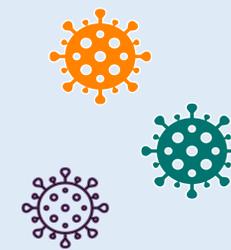
Recommended Citation

Flynn-Gulley, Kelle, "Educating School Nurses: Returning to School During the COVID-19 Pandemic" (2021). *Graduate Publications and Other Selected Works - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)*. <https://trace.tennessee.edu/dnp/8>

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Nursing at TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Publications and Other Selected Works - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) by an authorized administrator of TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

Educating School Nurses: Returning to School During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kelle Flynn-Gulley, Dr. Tracy Brewer, Lisa Wagoner



BACKGROUND

School nurses have taken on new roles during the COVID-19 pandemic and school re-opening process requiring nurses to remain current on frequently changing return to school guidelines. A public school district in East Tennessee lacked a formal continuing education process for its school nurses. The purpose of this Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) project was to provide education to East Tennessee school nurses on current return-to-school guidelines via an interactive e-learning platform.

GUIDING FRAMEWORK

This project utilized Larrabee's Model for Evidence-Based Practice Change.

PICO QUESTION

In school nurses (P), how does application of the standardization of return to school COVID-19 guidelines (I) compared to no guidelines (C) affect student identification and mitigation of suspected COVID-19 infections (O)?

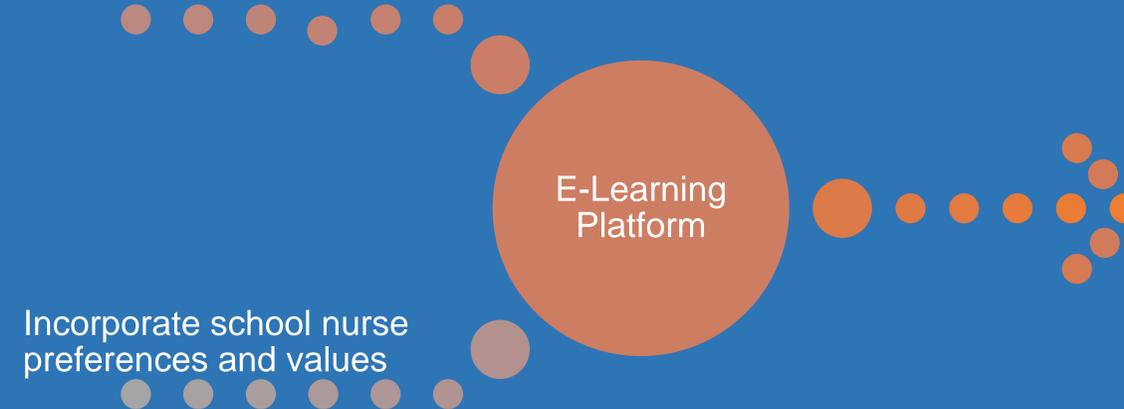
SEARCH STRATEGY

- A comprehensive and grey literature search was conducted with keywords and structures: school nurse, coronavirus, return to school
- In collaboration with the school nurse supervisor, a survey was created and sent to each school nurse within the district. Survey responses were used to assess organizational needs.

Reference available upon request.

TEACHING PLAN

Educate school nurses on most up-to-date recommendations



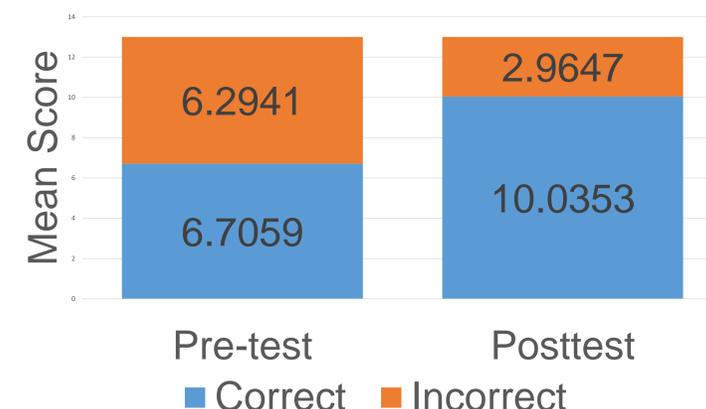
Incorporate school nurse preferences and values

METHOD

- School nurses were instructed to complete an interactive e-learning module utilizing the Electronic Education Documentation System (EEDs) platform
- Nurses were instructed to take a pretest prior to completing the educational module, followed by a posttest after module completion.
- The e-learning content and the pre/posttest assessments were reviewed by three field experts prior to implementation.
- Demographical, pretest, and posttest data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and a paired sample *t*-test.

RESULTS

There was a significant difference in the 13 item posttest scores in comparison to pretest results ($p < 0.001$).



Learners reported an improved understanding in COVID-19 return to school guidelines following module completion (mean pre = 4.06, mean post = 4.55; $p < 0.001$).

CONCLUSION

Results from this EBP project supports e-learning as an effective method for school nurse continuing education. This can be especially beneficial when COVID-19 recommendations are rapidly evolving, as well as encouraging distant learning.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Replication of this project could involve education on other evidence-based organizational needs, however, we recommend a follow-up posttest be distributed to assess knowledge retention about a month after module completion. Frequent communication with the school nurses may be needed to address changing public health recommendations. The next area of education may include COVID-19 vaccination of children and staff.