



July 31, 2020

Dear Governor Baker,

The Massachusetts School Nurse Organization (MSNO) supports the safe reopening of schools in the fall when these two criteria are met: 1) low community transmission of COVID-19 and 2) appropriate health and safety measures in place for schools. Last week you received a letter from over 75 Massachusetts Physicians regarding the need for expanding resources for local boards of health to conduct rapid COVID-19 testing with the assistance of “nursing programs already embedded in the schools” ([Boston Globe article](#), July 24, 2020).

We are eager to support all measures to reduce transmission in schools to assure the health and safety of our communities; and we support the concept of school-located COVID-19 testing. However, it’s imperative you know that school health programs, referred to previously as “nursing programs already embedded in the schools”, do not currently have the capacity to accomplish COVID-19 testing. Rapid COVID-19 testing in schools could be successfully accomplished with adequate funding, training, and effective partnership among local public health officials, medical providers and school personnel (school administrators and school nurses).

**If your administration is considering COVID-19 testing in schools, we respectfully request you include a school nurse in the planning process.**

As MSNO advances quality school health services across the Commonwealth, we are committed to the safe reopening of schools in the fall to benefit student health and learning.

Sincerely,

*Doreen Crowe*

Doreen Crowe, MEd, BSN, RN  
MSNO President

*Jenny Gormley*

Jenny Gormley, DNP, RN, NCSN  
MSNO Past-President

*Cathryn Hampson*

Cathryn Hampson, BSN, RN, NCSN  
MSNO President-Elect

Cc: Marylou Sudders, Secretary  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Monica Bharel, Commissioner  
Jill Clark, Director, Division of Child/Adolescent Health  
Karen Robitaille, Director School Health Services  
MA Department of Health

Jeffrey Riley, Commissioner  
Anne Gilligan, Safe & Healthy Schools Coordinator  
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Thomas Scott, Executive Director  
Christine McGrath, Director of Operations  
Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

Glen Koocher, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Association of School Committees

Cathleen Hagerty, Executive Director  
MA Chapter American Academy Pediatrics

Ruth Mori, President  
MA Association of Public Health Nurses

Julie Cronin, President  
American Nurses Association Massachusetts

Julie Pinkham, Executive Director  
Donna Kelly-Williams, President  
Massachusetts Nurses Association

Amanda Stefancyk Oberlies, Chief Executive Officer  
Organization of Nurse Leaders