#  Superintendent’s Memo #111-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: May 3, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: National School Nurse Day

Please join Governor Ralph Northam and the Virginia Department of Education in celebrating National School Nurse Day on Wednesday, May 8, 2019. National School Nurse Day is a way to foster a better understanding of the role school nurses play in the educational setting and acknowledge the efforts of school nurses to deliver quality health care to students in schools. School nurses help students stay healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

School nurses provide care to a diverse student population. The school nurse provides an array of specialized health care procedures, performs mandated health screenings, promotes healthy behaviors and wellness in the school community, and helps students manage their own chronic health conditions.

For many children, the school nurse is the only health professional they may have access to on a regular basis. This becomes even more important as the prevalence of chronic, social, emotional, and other health problems increase. Providing these health services to children can increase school attendance and reduce time spent by school staff managing health concerns of students while at school. The knowledge, skills, and abilities of licensed professional school nurses help ensure the provision of quality health care to children.

For more information, please contact Tracy White, School Health Specialist, by telephone at (804) 786-8671, or by email at Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov.

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