ASPIRE

SCHOOL NURSES & PANS/PANDAS

School Nurses play an integral role in the health of students. They support students and student health every day of the year. Children with PANS/PANDAS have complex physical and mental health conditions that benefit from the support of a School Nurse.

School Nurses connect providers, parents, & school, staff working to bolster student attendance and wellness. A School Nurse can coordinate care between the child's health care providers, other staff, and parents, so their health needs are met at school and are ready to learn. Taking the time to communicate and collaborate as a team is a key part of ensuring a PANS/PANDAS student's success.

> "The school nurse, as a member of a multidisciplinary team, benefits from an awareness of these disorders, the resulting impact on school performance, and the recommended treatment."
> - Kathy Bagian, MSN, RN, CSN, Sheila Q. Hartung, PhD, RN, Is It PANS, CANS, or PANDAS? Neuropsychiatric Pediatric Disorders That Are Not Black and White—Implications for the School Nurse

Unique Position of the School Nurse

- May be the first person to establish a link between a recent or recurring strep infection with a sudden onset of atypical behavior
- Can help report any abrupt changes in behavior, eating habits, or school performance to the family
- Can inform parents of any communicable illness in classrooms
- Can help develop and monitor attendance places and IHP/IHCP
- May be the person who knows the student better over time

School Nurse Role

- Bridge communication between staff, parents and outside providers
  - Develop and monitor Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP/IHCP)
  - Provide guidance to the team developing 504 and IEP plans
- Infection Control - Communicate with family and school community about strep and other infectious illness (mycoplasma pneumonia, Coxsackie, impetigo, etc.)
  - Provide ideas for reducing infection spread in the classroom
  - Send Notification of Strep or Other Infection letters to the school community
  - Inform parents of PANS/PANDAS students if strep or a particular illness is going around the school
  - Request that the school community to inform the School Nurse office of strep or other illness.
- Educate the school community on PANS/PANDAS.
  - Share information via newsletter, website, meetings, in staff meetings, etc.
  - Refer students to their primary care provider if you suspect PANS/PANDAS
- Provide emotional support to parents and student