

Welcome to the Nurse's Corner,

I wanted to formally introduce myself. I am Jordanne Wotkowicz, the new school nurse. I am super excited to be here and looking forward to a great 2020-2021 year ahead.

A little about me: I am the eldest of eight children and have grown up working with children my whole life. I grew up in The Berkshires, in Adams. I enjoy all outdoor activities for all seasons, and I enjoy spending time with my two rescue dogs who also love the outdoors - which is another reason I was so excited to start at Pine Cobble with all the outdoor activities and adventures.

I recently transferred my position from a full time VNA, RN, Case Manager to Per Diem, to start as the full time nurse here at Pine Cobble. During my clinical rotations, my rotation with a school nurse was my favorite, and I was excited to find this amazing opportunity here at Pine Cobble.

Contact Information:

- E-mail or Call Nurse Jordanne:

Email:	j.wotkowicz@pinecobble.org
Cell:	(413)-663-0386
Fax:	(413)-458-8174

Some information I am requesting from parents:

I am asking that children with the following diagnoses have a letter sent from their physician reporting the diagnosis:

- seasonal allergies
- food sensitivities/allergies
- long standing medical issues

This will assist me in ruling out if a child is having COVID-like symptoms or if a runny nose is due to allergies, or a stomach ache may be due to food sensitivities. These letters from physicians can be faxed to the school or emailed to me at the above email address.

Below I have answered some questions that have either come up or I anticipate you may be seeking answers now or in the future.

My professional experience with COVID-19:

A part of my job as a VNA nurse during the start of the COVID epidemic was providing and managing the care of patients who were diagnosed with COVID at home or those who were discharged from the hospital. I was in charge of making medical and clinical decisions in the field based on my assessments, evaluation, facts, and guidance from the public health officials.

This included working daily with the department of public health in various towns in Berkshire County and talking daily to public health officials.

The reality is COVID-19 guidelines/suggestions are changing daily; my job is to help our school stay in accordance with these and help all these children, faculty, and staff to stay healthy and in school.

Why temperature checks each day at Pine Cobble:

- I make midday rounds for temperature checks. This is another safety measure we are taking here at the school.

What happens if I find a student, faculty or staff member with a temperature?

Readings of 100.0 or higher:

- If a student has a temperature of 100.0 or higher, I will recheck the temperature within 5-10 minutes. If still 100.0 or higher, I will take that student back to my office and call a parent/guardian to come pick their child up. The student will then need to get a COVID-19 test and cannot return to school until a negative result is received.
 - Siblings: All siblings of a particular student with a fever will also be sent home and cannot return to school until their sibling has had a COVID-19 test and a negative result.
 - This also applies to staff members with temperatures of 100.0 or higher, who have children here at the school.

What happens if a student, faculty, or staff member is complaining of signs/symptoms ?

As stated above I will be assessing each child/adult with any health complaints. The symptoms that I am closely monitoring in relation to COVID are below:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills (CDC has lowered the temperature from 100.4 to 100.0)*
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)*
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath*
- New loss of taste or smell*
- Sore throat*
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea*
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms*

If a student, faculty, or staff member complains of any of the above, they will be sent home and required to be evaluated in office by their Primary Care Provider and receive a negative COVID test prior to returning to school.

- Siblings: All siblings (even if the sibling is without symptoms) of a student with one or more of the above symptoms will also be sent home and cannot return to school until the symptomatic sibling has received a COVID-19 test and a negative result.
 - This also applies to staff members with one or more of the above symptoms who have children here at the school.

What information do I need to clear your child for returning to school?

- Physician Notes stating that the child is cleared to report back to school.
- Copies of NEGATIVE COVID test results
 - Some physician notes may indicate that a COVID test is negative. In this case I would only need the physician note.

For this information simplified please refer to our Action Plan Concept Maps:

- [COVID-19 Initial Action Plan](#)
- [Safely Returning to Pine Cobble School Following Illness/Exposure Action Plan](#)

Upcoming Information:

Per the State of Massachusetts every child must receive an influenza immunization by December 31, 2020. Stay tuned for the next newsletter with more information regarding the school's plan for influenza immunization. Please refer to mass.gov link below for more information.

<https://www.mass.gov/news/flu-vaccine-now-required-for-all-massachusetts-school-students-enrolled-in-child-care-pre>

- If your child does receive an influenza vaccination, please have the provider send a record of vaccination to Pine Cobble School.
- I ask that the school have a copy of this as we will be needing to keep records of influenza vaccinations.

My goal is to have a newsletter posted on the Nurse's Corner on the [Pine Cobble School website](#) every other week with updates, answers to questions, and/or any other information I feel families should be made aware of.

Open communication is key during this time, and I ask that if there are any questions or concerns, please send me an email or give me a call. If I do not have an answer, I will work to find one for you!

Thank you,

Jordanne Wotkowicz BSN, RN