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Covid-19 and Student Health: A Global Perspective

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Summary of the Presentation

Background

Evidence regarding the spread of Covid-19 in school-age children is still emerging, as is best practice regarding schools reopening. The World Health Organization approached the Global School Nurse Research Consortium, School Nurse International, and European Union for School and University Health and Medicine to conduct a cross-sectional, descriptive study to better understand the lived experience of school nurses, learn what interventions are working, and determine future resource needs.

Methods

The survey was developed in English, and translated into Spanish, French, and Russian. The survey link was emailed to members of the partnership organizations, who in turn used a snowball sampling to extend the reach to more school nurses and

school physicians in each country and to more countries. The survey will close the end of September.

Results

The results of the survey will be shared in this presentation. Common school interventions include physical distancing, increased cleaning, and ventilation. Differences include use of masks, school closing, adequate supplies, and community measures. Mental fatigue of school nursing is also an important finding.

Conclusion

Public health officials predict that Covid-19 will continue in phases. With the emerging nature of the illness it is important to learn what interventions and activities are best practice to stop the spread of Covid-19 in schools, as well as how best to deal with the social and emotional impact of the virus on students and their families. The results will also influence future guidance materials and resource for schools.

The Effect of Covid-19 on the Mental Health of Adolescents

Speaker: Prof. Inez Myin-Germeys, Professor of Contextual Psychiatry, KU Leuven, Belgium.

Summary

Whereas adolescents are the least impacted by the physical effects of Covid-19, the confinement measures significantly impact their mental health. In this talk, I will review the evidence on the current mental health effects in this age group. Furthermore, I will explore the role of reduced social contacts as a mediator of these mental health impacts.