



# Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

## Office of Community Engagement Liaison

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### PLAINFIELD SCHOOL NURSE VOLUNTEERS WITH THE PLAINFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH COVID-19 CASES

May 6, 2020 - Every morning Ester O. Da Silva gets an email from the Plainfield Health Department informing her of positive COVID-19 Plainfield residents. Mrs. DaSilva is a nurse with the Plainfield Public School District and she is volunteering with the Plainfield Health Department assisting the department as an interpreter.

Mrs. Da Silva is working as a tracker for COVID-19 residents in accordance with the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health guidelines. Her job is to call the mainly Spanish-speaking residents to confirm their status and guide them on the next steps to take according to New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH).

"It's the hardest job I've had to do in my career as a nurse," said Da Silva. "I know the news they are going to hear affects them, and I do it with compassion and as best I can. I am here to assist them."

Mrs. Da Silva conducts an interview to gather certain information required by NJDOH guidelines and after the interview, she educates the residents on Isolation and Quarantine Protocols provided by the NJDOH. She answers any questions or concerns the residents have and lets them know about resources available to them. Mrs. Da Silva also reports to the Health Department all the hospitalizations and deaths daily.

As a nurse she feels she is doing her job. "This is why I became a nurse to make sure that while a person is facing health issues they have the best information possible, which makes the patient in-charge of their own health. That is so empowering and it can really change a person's health attitudes."

Mrs. DaSilva previously worked for the Plainfield Health Department as a Public Health Nurse from 2016 to 2018. She is the school nurse at Evergreen Elementary School. She has an RN Degree from

Middlesex County College and a BSN from Grand Canyon University. She is scheduled to graduate this Fall with her School Nurse Certification from New Jersey City University (NJCU). Mrs. Da Silva lives in Woodbridge with her husband and two children, a 23-year-old son who is graduating from college in May and a daughter, 18, a senior in high school.

Mrs. Da Silva and another Plainfield Schools nurse, Ms. Dayra Torres are part of the Plainfield Public School's team assisting families at the Plainfield Health Department during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please email [gmontealegre@plainfield.k12nj.us](mailto:gmontealegre@plainfield.k12nj.us).

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