PLEASE NOTE: Whether a nurse should or should not participate in a work stoppage is an issue beyond the jurisdiction of this Board.

The Board has received multiple inquires pertaining to a teacher work stoppage and the role of a school nurse. The registered nurse's professional conduct is governed by WV Code §30-7-1 et seq. and WV Code of State Rules 19-03 Requirements for Registration and Licensure and Conduct Constituting Professional Misconduct which are both available at http://wvrnboard.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx for your review.

Specifically, the Board has received inquiries regarding what is considered patient abandonment. The Board's legislative rule 19-3-14.1.d. defines professional misconduct, in pertinent part, as "abandoned patients by terminating responsibility for nursing care, intervention, or observation without properly notifying appropriate personnel and ensuring the safety of patients".

All complaints against a registered nurse alleging patient abandonment are processed on an individual basis and specific evidence will be gathered based on the specific situation of the individual nurse.

Please contact the WV Board of Education and/or the WV Division of Labor for employer/employee issues.