

Volume 13, Issue 1: September 2020 (2020-21 School Year)

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I. Ongoing Priority Section: Official State and Federal COVID-19 Guidance

The State of NJ has a number of credible resources regarding COVID-19. Live updates, announcements, health information and services, and resources for at home student learning can be accessed for free online.

If you are interested in accessing official State of NJ guidance, please visit the following webpages:

- <https://covid19.nj.gov/>
- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- <https://www.nj.gov/education/>.

The U.S. government also provides COVID-19 guidance related to schools.

A few resources are provided below from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on recommendations for protecting K-12 school staff, cleaning and disinfection, and a pandemic flu checklist. The link to a six-step infographic from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for safe and effective disinfectant use in schools (and homes, etc.) is also included below. A link to a checklist and infographic from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding best practices for re-opening retail food establishments during the pandemic as well as a link to a list of hand sanitizer products one should not use are also provided below.

The NJ PEOSH Program recommends these resources as well.

If you are interested in accessing these federal guidance files, please visit the following webpages:

- [CDC Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#)
- [CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)
- [CDC Pandemic Flu Checklist](#)
- [EPA Six Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use](#)
- [FDA Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [FDA List of Hand Sanitizer Products You Should Not Use](#)

There are also school specific resources regarding COVID-19. Below is a link to an infographic on mask guidance.

- <https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/resources/mask-playbook/>

II. New: U.S. DOL Paid Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

On August 27th, 2020 the U.S. Department of Labor's (U.S. DOL) Wage and Hour Division (WHD) released three new frequently asked questions (#98-100) to their growing and frequently updated list of inquiries based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). These questions address eligibility for paid leave by the adult parent/caregiver/guardian relative to the varied school schedules and formats available to the children under the following three circumstances:

1. Attends a school operating on an alternate daily basis. See [FAQ 98](#) for more information.
2. Chooses remote learning when in-person instruction is available. See [FAQ 99](#) for more information.
3. A school begins the year with remote learning but may still shift to in-person instruction if conditions change. See [FAQ 100](#) for more information.

Please refer to the following link for the full list of frequently asked questions. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>

For further information and guidance on worker and employer rights and benefits under the FFCRA please refer to the U.S. DOL-WHD website. www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic

III. New: OSHA COVID-19 Printed Resources

The U.S. DOL-Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides a number of COVID-19 printed resources for free. You can order printed copies of these OSHA COVID-19 posters and guidance booklets for your school or workplace free of charge, and are available in multiple languages.

If you are interested in ordering printed resources, please visit OSHA's [publications page](#) to place an order.

IV. New: Transition Coalition Resources

The U.S. Transition Coalition offers professional development opportunities for secondary transition and college and career readiness of youth with disabilities. If you are interested in receiving their e-news and resources, please subscribe [here](#).

V. New: RAMP and AAFA Tips for Reducing Environmental Asthma Triggers

Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP), an initiative based in northern California, works to reduce the burden of asthma with a focus on health equity. In 2015, RAMP and California School-Based Health Alliance (CSHA) developed the [Asthma Environmental Intervention Guide for School-Based Health Centers](#), outlining five broad strategies to reduce environmental asthma triggers. Since then, RAMP has supported 27 SBHCs across the country in implementing those strategies and most recently developed another tool based on their experiences.

The new tool, [Tips for Success! School-Based Health Centers: Leaders in Reducing Environmental Asthma Triggers](#), highlights six key tips:

1. Assess the problem creatively.
2. Select an intervention.
3. Build relationships and obtain buy-in.
4. Achieve success with your community.
5. Develop a plan of action and implement the work.
6. Connect with others and expand your impact.

Along with lessons learned and best practices included in the tool, these tips can help SBHCs in reducing environmental asthma triggers by outlining steps to effectively implement interventions tailored to the unique needs of their communities so that they may achieve the greatest impact.

In addition, the U.S. Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) released a guidance document regarding management of asthma and reducing (if not preventing) exposure to environmental asthma triggers inside and outside at K-12 schools. Note it was originally released late July 2020, and then was revised late August for September's back-to-school preparation efforts. To access the downloadable PDF file for free, please go to: <https://www.aafa.org/media/2710/covid-19-and-asthma-toolkit-for-schools.pdf>.

VI. New: Children's Environmental Health Day on October 8

Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Day is on October 8, 2020. CEH Day provides the opportunity to raise awareness of children's environmental health issues and to motivate audiences to take action to promote safer and healthier environments for children.

If you are interested in learning more about CEH Day, as well as information about becoming an official CEH Day Partner, please visit <https://cehn.org/ceh-movement/ceh-day-2020/>.

VII. Reminder: New, Free Online Courses for Students and Teachers/Supervisors: Introduction to Quantitative Risk Assessment and Introduction to Apprenticeships

The New Jersey Safe Schools team has developed a free, online course titled Introduction to Principles of Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA), hosted on the Rutgers learning management system (LMS), Canvas. This online course was developed for predominately high school students, but can also be completed by teachers. The objective of this course is to learn the basic steps and components of QRA, which includes understanding the six steps of QRA, acquiring skills on identifying hazards and risks, and learning to assess and identify risks. This new course will take approximately 1.5-2 hours for users to complete. Upon completing this online course, students and teachers will receive a certification of completion. Also, teachers will receive professional development units (PDU).

The New Jersey Safe Schools team has also developed a free, online "Introduction to Apprenticeships in NJ High Schools for Minors and Young Adults" course hosted on the Rutgers Canvas LMS. The goal of the course is to provide pertinent information regarding apprenticeships in NJ. This course provides definitions, reference data and resources regarding apprenticeships. The course will take approximately 1.5-2 hours for users to complete. Enrollees will receive a certificate of completion and PDU upon completing the course.

Courses are now approved and available for enrollment. If you are interested in participating, and/or have any questions, please email New Jersey Safe Schools staff at cscbre@sph.rutgers.edu.

VIII. Permanent NJ Safe Schools Resources (available online for free)

A. The non-SLE schedule will be added throughout the year. For more information, see below and visit <https://sph.rutgers.edu/training/nj-safe-schools/non-sle-general.html>.

Please contact us at 732-235-4988 or cscbre@sph.rutgers.edu for details and how to enroll. Note: There are no new course enrollments July through September of each calendar year.

B. Structured Learning Experience Frequently Asked Questions (NJ Safe Schools website)

We have a frequently asked question (FAQ) section on the NJ Safe Schools website. There are over 50 FAQs on the list covering a range of topics in four subcategories pertaining to structured learning experiences (SLEs). Questions about SLE supervision eligibility, SLE program set-up, worksite placement considerations, required paperwork and on-site workplace concerns for students in SLEs are included. The list of FAQs was compiled from actual questions submitted by NJ teachers/supervisors. Each of the responses previously appeared in print or electronic newsletters through the NJ Safe Schools Program or the "SLE info share listserv." Please go to: <https://sph.rutgers.edu/training/nj-safe-schools/faq.html>.

C. NJ Safe Schools Manual is annually updated to reflect the latest changes to both federal and/or State of NJ codes pertaining to the National Fire Protection Agency and National Electrical Code, Hazard Communication Standard, etc. The Manual includes a collection of self-inspection checklists covering environmental, health and safety regulations for secondary occupational and career orientation programs in New Jersey public schools and private schools for the disabled. The entire Manual is available to access online, and meets Accessibility Guidelines.

Please go to the NJ Safe Schools website at <https://sph.rutgers.edu/training/nj-safe-schools/manual.html>.

The Manual page on the NJ Safe Schools Program website has a new look in summer-fall 2020 for its home page plus three other sections easily navigated from a home page description--Checklists, Supporting checklists, Appendices (each downloaded to your computer, tablet or smartphone as PDF files).

Note: The Manual does not replace responsibility of each school district and school to provide students with a safe and healthful environment, i.e., beyond hazards outlined in Manual.

D. Online Incident Reporting Mandated by State of NJ Law

The New Jersey Safe Schools/NJDOE Incident Reporting Form for Career and Technical Education Programs, Cooperative Education Experiences, and Structured Learning Experiences is online at <https://sph.rutgers.edu/training/nj-safe-schools/incident-reporting.html>.

Schools are now required by code (N.J.A.C. 6A:19-6.5) to submit their incident report online. You can also download a copy of the newly updated "Guidance Manual for Completing the Incident Reporting Form" on this site. Note: The Guidance Manual was updated as of December 2018.