

Volume 13, Issue 3: November 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/> including tips (topics, posted in fall 2020 and spring 2020) for virtual professional learning and teaching/working with colleagues, students and their families: <https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/teacherresources/virtualproflearning.shtml>.

New this month: NJ Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order 192 on workplace safety.

NJ Governor Murphy signed Executive Order (E.O.) 192 on 10/24/2020, effective 11/5/2020.

The same day, he signed E.O. 191 and extended the public health emergency in NJ another 30 days (again renewed original E.O. 103 of 3/9/2020). E.O. 192, in summary, specifies how public- and private-sector employers—including K-12 schools—must adhere to requirements including: six-foot social-distancing standards for workers to the extent possible; mandate face-masks for employees and visitors when entering the workplace, with limited exceptions; conduct daily health screenings; and, send sick employees home and comply with paid sick-leave laws.

For more information, please go to: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-192.pdf>

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

A few resources are provided below from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on recommendations for protecting K-12 school staff, and cleaning and disinfection. 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 list of hand sanitizer products one should not use from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is also provided below.

The NJ PEOSH Program recommends these resources as well.

The U.S. Department of Labor-Occupational Safety and Health Administration also provides the following fact sheet—downloadable in English and many other languages as a PDF file—on 10 steps to reduce exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus causing COVID-19.

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](#)
- [EPA Six Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use](#)
- [FDA List of Hand Sanitizer Products You Should Not Use](#)
- [USDOL-OSHA 10 Steps Workplaces Can Take to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Coronavirus](#) with English PDF being, <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3994.pdf>.

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: Career and Technical Education During COVID-19 Resources

There are clear challenges to career and technical education (CTE) programs during COVID-19, and recognition of COVID-19's impact on CTE overall. The new Advance CTE webpage titled "Resources for States--COVID-19" provides information and resources pertaining to advancing CTE programs during the ongoing pandemic. The current topics include distance learning and managing students and their progress virtually. If you are interested in accessing this new resource, please visit <https://careertech.org/covid19>.

Advance CTE's website also has their latest video, titled "CTE 101 Video!" It was designed to demonstrate the benefits of CTE programs in different communities. If you are interested in viewing the video, at no cost, please visit <https://careertech.org/campaign-video>.

III. New: National Apprenticeship Week November 8-14, 2020

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) will take place on November 8-14, 2020. This nationwide celebration provides businesses, communities, and educators with the opportunity to showcase their apprenticeship programs and apprentices while providing important resources to career seekers. To learn more about hosting an event, issuing a proclamation, or materials and resources, please visit <https://blog.dol.gov/2020/10/19/5-resources-for-planning-your-national-apprenticeship-week-event>.

As a reminder, the NJ Safe Schools Program offers a new, free online course titled "Introduction to Apprenticeships in NJ High Schools for Minors and Young Adults." The goal of the course is to provide pertinent information regarding apprenticeships in NJ. Enrollees will receive a certificate of completion and PDU upon completing the course. If you are interested in participating, and/or have any questions, please email NJ Safe Schools staff at cscbre@sph.rutgers.edu.

IV. From U.S. DOL for fall 2020: 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

V. 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.

VI. 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.