

Volume 13, Issue 5: December 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>.

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, and last renewed 11/22/2020 for 30 days with E.O. 200).

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: Additional NJDOE Work-Based Learning Technical Assistance Session on January 6, 2021

Due to the overwhelming response of registrations for the first two work-based learning (WBL) technical assistance sessions, the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Career Readiness will host a 3rd technical assistance session on January 6, 2021 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

If you were not able to attend either of the two sessions held on December 11th and 15th, 2020, we strongly encourage school personnel who coordinate WBL experiences to attend this important session to learn about WBL guidance for the 2020-2021 school year.

The session will highlight the following:

1. WBL experiences State and Federal compliance.
2. Virtual/cohort required training for supervision and placement.
3. Opportunities for WBL experiences in Career Exploration, Career Preparation and Career Training.
4. COVID-19 Considerations, Recommendations, and Resources for WBL.
5. WBL Frequently Asked Questions.

Click [here](#) to register for the January 6, 2021 session from 3:00–4:00 p.m.

A Skype for Business link to join the webinar will then be sent to your registration email once registration is closed.

For more information, please contact Dave Gehrke, State WBL Coordinator, at David.Gehrke@doe.nj.gov.

Please note the first cohort of 2021 for the set of four SLE/WBL supervisor paid trainings, online, will be during late January - early March; sign up begins after the New Year.

III. New: Suite of Online Virtual Trainings for Student Work-Based Learning Experiences

Beginning in January 2021, the NJ Safe Schools program will be offering its suite of online virtual trainings to districts and schools to have data/documentation for the 2020-2021 school year into the "NJ SMART" system on student work-based learning (WBL) experiences. As a way of supporting school districts in providing WBL experiences to their students, NJ schools will have the opportunity to enroll their students in different cohort groups to complete the suite of six NJ Safe Schools online virtual trainings.

The six courses include:

1. New and Young Workers Course on wage and hour and child labor laws including minimum wage
2. Introduction to Quantitative Risk Assessment Course
3. Introduction to Personal Protective Equipment Course
4. Cyber-security and Cyber-safety Course
5. Introduction to Apprenticeships Course
6. NJDOE-NJSS Introductory Course ("+" portion of OSHA 10 Plus General Industry)

More details will be provided in the upcoming newsletters and via official State of NJ/NJDOE guidance.

IV. New: Workplace Safety and Health for Teen Workers During Seasonal Employment

Throughout December, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is partnering with stakeholders to increase awareness and promote workplace safety and health resources for employers and teen workers who are employed during winter break.

If you would like to learn more about seasonal employment rules or specific safety and health steps young workers can take during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit the following OSHA webpages:

- [OSHA COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [OSHA COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

- [OSHA Employer Responsibilities and Young Worker Rights](#)

V. 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>.

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.

