

Volume 13, Issue 6: January 2021 (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>.
- <https://rutgerstraining.sph.rutgers.edu/covid19/> COVID-19 Resources for Businesses and Workplaces from the Rutgers Center for Public Health Workforce Development

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 12/21/2020 for 30 days with E.O. 210). 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 a fact sheet—downloadable in English and many other languages as a PDF file—on 10 steps to reduce your 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. For example, below is a link to an infographic on mask guidance to use with high school students.

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

II. *New: Upcoming 2021 Schedule for Work-Based Learning Trainings*

The schedule for work-based learning (WBL, formerly known as Structured Learning Experiences or SLE) trainings for certified teachers only who are applying for a cooperative education coordinator certificate-hazardous occupations, a cooperative education coordinator certificate, or who are appointed to coordinate WBL placements will be released in the coming weeks.

Seven cohorts will be available for registration, with the first cohort beginning at the end of January 2021 and the last cohort ending at the end of July 2021. All trainings will be online, with asynchronous and synchronous parts to each of the four required WBL trainings.

An announcement will be made on our website <https://sph.rutgers.edu/training/nj-safe-schools/required-courses.html> and via a special e-newsletter when course costs and registration are available.

III. *New: Suite of Six Online Virtual Topical Courses for Student Work-Based Learning*

Beginning in January 2021, the NJ Safe Schools program will be offering its suite of six online virtual courses 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); indeed, this opportunity for career exploration is approved as part of the formal guidance from NJDOE to secondary school districts and approved comprehensive high school programs. 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 courses.

The six topics covered in these 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: New Jersey's Minimum Wage Changes

Effective January 1, 2021, the New Jersey minimum wage is \$12.00 per hour. The current minimum wage of \$12.00 per hour increased from \$11.00 per hour at the start of the new year. For an outline of the minimum wage rate changes through the year 2024 (up to \$15 per hour), please visit https://www.nj.gov/labor/forms_pdfs/wagehour/minimumwage_postcard.pdf.

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.