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## **I. Ongoing Priority Section**

### **A.) Teacher/Supervisor Trainings:**

#### **New 2021-22 Work-Based Learning Supervision Training Application**

The NJ Safe Schools Program (NJSS) is implementing a special grant funded initiative in partnership with the NJ Department of Education-Office of Career Readiness. The goal is to provide teachers free work-based learning (WBL or formerly school-sponsored structured learning experiences) supervisory trainings for career and technical education (CTE) and WBL in non-hazardous occupations throughout NJ via targeted recruitment.

Teachers will represent the State of NJ, with equal opportunity by region (north, central, and south) and additional opportunity for teachers in larger urban/suburban populations serving historically underrepresented minority, low-middle income students. Eligible teachers are endorsed (certification credentials) in CTE, agricultural education, business, and/or family and consumer sciences. This application is only available for those individuals that hold a NJ teacher certificate and a NJ CTE endorsement.

There will be six cohorts of trainings available between fall 2021 and summer 2022. Participants are selected and assigned to cohorts #1-6 using application form via PsychData. To access the application form and see if you are eligible, please visit <https://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=192380>.

If you apply and are not eligible for this opportunity, NJSS will contact you and provide more information to register for our regular work-based learning training cohorts, in 2022 at reduced total cost and an improved administrative process, being offered January-July 2022.

An outline of the four required courses for work-based learning supervision is below. The teachers eligible for the aforementioned opportunity are also required to take two other online topical courses—otherwise offered for free to teachers and students statewide—on apprenticeships and cyber-safety/cyber-security.

#### **A. Federal Wage & Hour and Child Labor Laws**

Online course. This course is hosted on the Rutgers Canvas learning management system (LMS) and takes about 4-6 hours to complete.

#### **B. New Jersey Wage & Hour and Child Labor Laws**

Online course for 2021. This course has two parts. First, the online course on the Rutgers Canvas learning management system (LMS), then the live session hosted on Microsoft Teams.

### C. OSHA 10 Plus

Online course for 2021. This course has three parts. First, the "OSHA 10 General Industry" online course on CareerSafe, then the NJDOE 2-hour Safety and Health overview on the Rutgers Canvas learning management system (LMS), and lastly the live session hosted on Rutgers WebEx.

### D. Designing & Implementing Student Training Plans

Online course for 2021. This course has two parts. First, the online course on the Rutgers Canvas learning management system (LMS), including the completion of the mandatory day two field assignment, then the live session hosted on Rutgers WebEx.

## **B.) Students and Supervisory Teachers Trainings: Suite of Six Online Virtual Topical Courses for Student Work-Based Learning**

During fall 2021, the NJ Safe Schools program will continue to offer its suite of six online virtual courses to districts and schools to have data/documentation 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.

For fall 2021, cohort #6 (September-October) and #7 (November-December) are available for enrollment.

These series of courses can also be completed by students who are not participating in WBL programs.

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)

At the end of the cohort time period, we will provide students (copy to supervising teacher or administrator) a formal memo on letterhead documenting completion of series of six courses.

To enroll students in the courses, please email [cscbre@sph.rutgers.edu](mailto:cscbre@sph.rutgers.edu) with an Excel spread sheet containing students' first name, last name and school administered (or formally accepted for tracking purposes) email address.

## **C.) Official State and Federal COVID-19 Guidance (Online Resources)**

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/roadforward/> "The Road Forward: Engage, Recover, and Reimagine Education in New Jersey" (This includes information on new initiatives, funding sources available, and standardized testing plans for the remainder of 2021.)
- <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

The NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) Communicable Disease Service has updated COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. This information is available on the Communicable Disease Service COVID-19 Information for Schools website at: [https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_schools.shtml](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml).

The NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) has also developed fact sheets on steps schools can take in improving indoor air quality with re-opening and continued operations. These include fact sheets on: 1) the different types of air cleaning devices (including ozone emitting air purifiers) which may pose a health risk to children and staff; 2) the PEOSH indoor air quality standard; 3) steps to improve ventilation; and 4) guidance on safe application of disinfectants to large areas.

These fact sheets can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/environmental-occupational/reducing-hazardous-exposures/index.shtml>.

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 latest guidelines, 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 (DOL)-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. And, on 4/7/2021, U.S. DOL-Wage & Hour Division launched a new version of their website, <http://www.worker.gov>, also available in Spanish (click upper right corner, “Español”); alternatively, you can go directly to it, <http://www.worker.gov/es> (click upper right corner, English, to go back).

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

- [CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation](#)
- [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. Resources and Opportunities for Work-Based Learning**

### **A.) Co-administration of COVID-19 Vaccine with Routine Vaccinations for Back-to-School**

In preparation for in-person attendance for the 2021-22 school year, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Vaccine Preventable Disease Program is sending a reminder that all students must comply with age-appropriate immunization requirements set forth in NJ administrative code (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4). Students who are not up to date on immunization requirements and/or do not meet eligibility for provisional admission, should not be allowed to attend school in-person until immunization(s) are received or applicable exemptions are filed.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updated its clinical guidance on May 14, 2021 to allow COVID-19 vaccines to be administered at the same time as other routine vaccines. Given the importance of routine vaccination and the need for rapid update of COVID-19 vaccines, co-administration of routine immunizations with COVID-19 vaccines for those behind on or due for immunization is important for preventing diseases from spreading within communities.

For more information on New Jersey school immunization requirements, please visit [https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/imm\\_requirements/](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/imm_requirements/).

## **B.) The Importance of School Ventilation for Reopening Schools**

The NJ Safe Schools Program reminds NJ schools of the critical importance of adequate enhanced ventilation and filtration in our public, charter and private schools serving students and adult workers in K-12.

Overall, in general, based on our field research experiences--documented in peer-reviewed journals--conducted in NJ as well as in other U.S. states and nations (Dr. Shendell), we provide the following opinion/guidance.

Without details/context of an individual school and its buildings/facilities, we recommend you do not buy expensive air cleaning equipment and UV light add-on devices to unit ventilators/mechanical HVAC systems (heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems). Instead, with available resources, please focus your resources on the maintenance of existing mechanical HVAC; on the use of the most efficient HVAC filter (highest MERV rating possible), ideally MERV 13 or higher and/or HEPA filtration units if no HVAC; and, replace the filters per manufacturer recommendations (i.e., certain number of times per year). Finally, bring in outdoor air, not just recirculate indoor air; HVAC system should have adjustable settings.

For more information, please go to:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/list-carb-certified-air-cleaning-devices>

[https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/ceohs%20content/NJDOH\\_Guidance\\_Air\\_Cleaning\\_Devices\\_NJ\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/ceohs%20content/NJDOH_Guidance_Air_Cleaning_Devices_NJ_Schools.pdf)

In addition, recently, the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health released a new report on ways to provide healthy air in schools to increase safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and potential future respiratory disease outbreaks. The report, [\*School Ventilation: A Vital Tool to Reduce COVID-19 Spread\*](#), reviews how improvements in building ventilation can reduce the risks of disease transmission.

The report recommends six near- and long-term priorities to improve healthy air in schools:

1. Bringing in as much outdoor air as the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system will safely allow and upgrading filtration.
2. Purchase HEPA air filtration units to be placed in classrooms and common occupied spaces.
3. Use only proven technologies for improving indoor air quality: appropriate ventilation and HEPA filtration. Schools should not use chemical foggers or any "air cleaner."
4. Stop enhanced cleaning, disinfecting, "deep clean" days, and any other expensive and disruptive cleaning. Fomite (surface) transmission is not a major driver of the spread of SARS-CoV-2.
5. Upgrade mechanical ventilation systems that do not meet current standards.
6. Convene a federal task force dedicated to school air quality to develop guidance for long-term, sustainable, cost-effective improvements to indoor air quality in schools. This guidance should include accountability measures to assess improvements.

## **C.) Adolescent Mental Health Post Natural Disasters**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), distress caused by natural disasters can cause emotional, mental, and physical problems. In addition, they can also affect one's ability to think clearly, which makes it more difficult for one to process information and properly follow health and safety guidance.

In late 2020, CDC launched a new website (<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/teens.html>) to help adolescents who are coping with the aftermath of a natural disaster. The website includes youth videos and social media posts, and highlights resources on "healthy ways to deal with stress" and "resources for parents and professionals."

## **D.) First Annual NJ Youth Transition Conference is October 1-2, 2021**

The first annual NJ Youth Transition Conference: Navigating the Future will be held virtually on October 1-2, 2021. The two day online event was created for youth ages 14-21+ who experience intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers and the professionals who serve them. The conference will include a number of guest speakers, workshops and breakout rooms on various services and supports available.

To learn more about the online conference and to pre-register, please visit <http://www.njyouthtransition.life/>.

### **III. Permanent NJ Safe Schools Free Online Resources**

#### **Free Online Resources (Guidance on incident reporting, NJ Safe Schools Manual...)**

##### **A. 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>.

**B. 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.

*Note:* The NJ Safe Schools Program released Manual update #43 for 2021 in late August. To support NJ school districts and schools re-opening local and county campuses, classrooms, gyms, laboratories and shops in August-September 2021 for in-person learning (general education, work-based learning, extracurricular activities, etc.), we wanted to remind our colleagues in administration and designated persons roles (facilities, operations and maintenance, Right to Know, etc.) of resources available online for free to assist walk-through assessments. To view a copy of the memo released regarding the Manual update, please visit <https://sph.rutgers.edu/training/nj-safe-schools/assets/docs/Manual-Update-Memo43.pdf>.

##### **C. 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.