Returning to School: Mitigation and Mental Health Strategies

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (OSSS) and the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) invite you to join a presentation by the CDC on how to optimize mitigation and mental health strategies to facilitate a safe return to schools in the new year. This webinar will take place Wednesday, January 13 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

The presentation will include:

- User-friendly tools and information for schools to inform the selection and implementation of COVID-19 mitigation strategies; and
- Information about how to support and promote mental health for students and school staff, both in-person and virtually.

COVID-19 Vaccine

At MOSstopsCOVID.com, Missourians can discover who is currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and review FAQs about vaccine safety, logistics and more.

A new FAQ and subsequent response was added after last week’s DESE/DHSS webinar. Several school leaders asked about quarantine protocol for individuals who receive both doses of the vaccine. Please review that information below.

Q: Do you still have to quarantine as a close contact after you receive both doses of the vaccine?

A: At this time, yes, a fully vaccinated individual should still quarantine after being identified as a close contact. The vaccinated individual would not develop symptoms of COVID-19, but given this novel virus, it has yet to be determined if a vaccinated individual would still be able to transmit
All participants must register for the interactive presentation in order to gain access to the meeting room.

2021 Interface Conference
The Interface Conference will be held virtually this year and will take place February 16-18. This virtual conference will provide an opportunity for mathematic and science educators of all grade levels throughout Missouri to network and share best practices.

Registration is now open! Click here for conference details and registration information. The deadline to register is 11:59 p.m. on February 16.

the virus to others. It is possible the length of quarantine may be shortened or modified. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC’s recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Please note that DESE anticipates additional information to be released in the coming week related to school nurses in Phase 1A as well as education staff in Phase 1B. DESE will share this information as soon as it becomes available.

Save the Date: Conference on the Young Years

This year’s Conference on the Young Years will be held virtually and will take place March 11-12. Registration is free.

Details, including the conference schedule, presenter names and registration information, will be shared later this month when available.

Attention First & Second Year Teachers & Mentors: Free Learning Opportunities
In support of first and second year teachers, and to provide a venue to build a strong community of practice for mentors across the state, DESE has sponsored the Beginning Teacher Community of Practice and the Mentoring Community of Practice. Both are free opportunities, 90 minutes in length, designed to alleviate learning losses due to COVID-19.

Register here:

Items of Continued Interest

Upcoming COVID-19 Webinars
Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming DESE/DHSS monthly stakeholder webinars. These webinars are intended to keep school leaders, school nurses and local public health officials informed on COVID-19 updates pertaining to K-12 schools, and answer questions live from those stakeholders. Each webinar will be held from 1:00-2:30 p.m. to allow ample time for live Q&A.

- Wed. Feb. 3
- Wed. Mar. 3
- Wed. Apr. 7
- Wed. May 5

Use this link to access each webinar: https://livestream.com/modese/covid-19.

Any stakeholder who may require an accommodation to participate in a live webinar (i.e. captioning) should request such services by emailing Communications@dese.mo.gov or calling (573) 751-3469 no later than 48 hours before the event. You may also contact DESE Communications if you need an accommodation (i.e. captioning or a transcript) to view a recorded webinar.

January Dates to Remember

Pioneer in Education Award
Each year since 1974, the State Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have selected individuals to be honored as Pioneers in Education, in recognition of their distinguished careers and contributions to public education.

Individuals named to this group include outstanding school teachers, administrators, local board members, college and university deans and presidents, former legislators and governors.

While nominations can be submitted throughout the year, those submitted prior to February 28 will be considered for recognition in 2021. For more information and to access the nomination form, click here.

Regional Teacher of the Year Nominations
The 2022 Regional Teacher of the Year award is now open for nominations. Click here to nominate an educator who has gone above and beyond for their students and/or your school community. The nomination period closes on April 15, 2021. The Teacher of the Year program aims to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher to a quality and effective learning environment.

Missouri Leadership Development System Principal Leadership Series
In keeping with the vision to support leadership growth through a variety of mediums, beginning in January, the Missouri Leadership Development System (MLDS) is making available a series of short, convenient learning opportunities for Missouri principals.
Show Me Hope
Show Me Hope is Missouri’s crisis counseling program (CCP) in response to a disaster or critical event. Counselors are based in local communities to teach coping and stress management skills to anyone dealing with anxiety and uncertainty caused by the event. The CCP helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through community outreach and access to resources including mental health services.

COVID-19 & Kids ECHO
COVID-19 & Kids ECHO will provide up-to-date information and support for health care, school and public health professionals across Missouri. A team of pediatric infectious disease physicians and other experts will share information about the latest developments, answer questions and discuss management of de-identified patient and student cases presented by participants. The Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and MU’s Missouri Telehealth Network are partnering to support primary care physicians and other providers, school leaders and nurses and local public health agencies to improve the health and well-being of Missouri children.

Click here to download the flyer.
Click here to register.

Administrative Memos
Topics for this series were developed based on results of surveys of Missouri school principals. Check out the full slate of available topics here. Each segment is presented in three formats for the convenience of participating school leaders: a 7-10 minute video or podcast, as well as a PDF document. This ensures busy educators now have the opportunity to access relevant, practice-confirmed leadership learning in a manner that fits their demanding schedules.

These on-demand resources were developed by DESE in partnership with the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP), the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals (MoASSP) and the Rutherford Learning Group. This series was made possible through CARES Act funding and is available for principals in your schools at no charge.

Ten minutes may not change the world, but it can dramatically improve the foundations of leadership practice and position principals to take full advantage of the learning opportunities available through the MLDS. To access this new, timely resource, click here to visit either the MAESP or MoASSP websites. You can also click here to learn more about MLDS.

MOrE Healthy Schools Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Statewide Webinar
Please join DESE, in collaboration with EDPLUS, on January 21, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for the MOrE Healthy Schools WSCC Statewide Webinar, “Conversation to ACTION: Building A School Improvement Plan to Strengthen Wellness.” District/school leaders will learn from Dr. William Potts-Datema on how to apply tenets of the WSCC to influence the decision making process and address equity within school district improvement plans. Opportunities to practice and implement highlighted strategies will be provided. To learn more, click here.

Registration is required and can be done here.

Missouri Fifth Graders Invited to Participate in Department of Public Safety National Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest
To call attention to the issue of missing children, Missouri fifth graders are invited to participate in the National Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest. The contest is offered annually by the U.S. Department of Justice. The national winner and his/her parents and teacher will be invited to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 38th Annual National Missing Children’s Day Ceremony on May 19, 2021. Transportation and lodging will be provided.

Posters, the completed application and signed consent and release form must be submitted to the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Attn: Connie Berhorst, P.O. Box 749, Jefferson City, MO 65102, by Feb. 5, 2021. Contact Rhonda Wilson with any questions at (573) 526-1464.
Miss a recent Administrative Memo? You can view them all here.

**Recent memos include:**

- **LS-21-001 - End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Participation for First Semester Seniors 2020-21**
- **QS-20-015 - MOCAP Billing**

- To view contest rules and more, download the application kit [here](#).
- To view previous artwork from the contest, click [here](#).

The Missouri winner will be notified by Feb. 21.

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**2020 Missouri State Rehabilitation Council Annual Report**

The 2020 Missouri State Rehabilitation Council Annual Report is now available [here](#) on the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) website. This report outlines the progress made by Missouri citizens who were served by vocational rehabilitation programs. The State Rehabilitation Council is responsible for reviewing, analyzing and advising VR regarding its performance on such issues as eligibility; the extent, scope and effectiveness of services; and any other functions affecting people with disabilities.