Lessons Learned from the Pandemic

December 13, 2021

New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge › Skill › Opportunity

Lessons Learned

Sought Input:

State Boards for the Professions

Associations of Health Professions and related groups (50+ responses)

Significant agreement on what worked well and continuing challenges

Health Care Associations That Provided Input

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)

- American Counseling Association (ACA)

- American Nurses Association (ANA)

- American Psychological Association (APA)

- Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)

- Community Pharmacy Association of New York State (CPANYS)

- Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)

- Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)

- Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY)

- Mid-Atlantic Region of American Music Therapy Association (MAR-AMTA)

- National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)

- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

- New York American College of Emergency Physicians (NYACEP)

- New York Dental Hygienists' Association (NYDHA)

- New York Mental Health Counselors Association (NYMHCA)

- NYS Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP)

- NYS Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NYSANA)

Health Care Associations That Provided Input

- **NYS Chiropractic Association (NYSCA)**
- **NYS Clinical Laboratory Association (NYSCLA)**
- **NYS Council of Health-System Pharmacists (NYSCHP)**
- **NYS Dental Association (NYSDA)**
- **NYS Optometric Association (NYSOA)**
- **NYS Podiatric Medical Association (NYSPMA)**
- **NYS Psychiatric Association (NYSPA)**
- **NYS Psychological Association (NYSPA)**
- **NYS Radiological Society (NYSRS)**

- **NYS School Counselor Association (NYSSCA)**
- **NYS Society for Clinical Social Work (NYSSCSW)**
- **NYS Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA)**
- **NYS Society of Opticians (NYSSO)**
- **NYS Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA)**
- **NYS Veterinary Medical Society (NYSVMS)**
- **The Nurse Practitioner Association (NPA)**
- **Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY)**

Q:
Did you utilize OP's website to find information related to the COVID-19 state of emergency?

"We regularly utilized the Department's COVID-19 guidance and FAQ web resources and found them well organized and updated regularly." - CPANYS

"Yes, having a webpage devoted to COVID-19 on the SED website is helpful. In particular, having an updated FAQ document and a webpage devoted to executive order provisions impacting the various healthcare professions." - HANYS

"Yes, we did. We have been monitoring it very closely and working with colleagues at SED to make sure we understand the policy changes." - GNYHA

# Telepractice

- Critical means for providing safe services—but not a simple replacement for in-person assessment and treatment.

- Potential to expand access to services—but not for patients without access to the technology and the ability to use it.

- Increases demand for interstate license portability by interstate compacts.
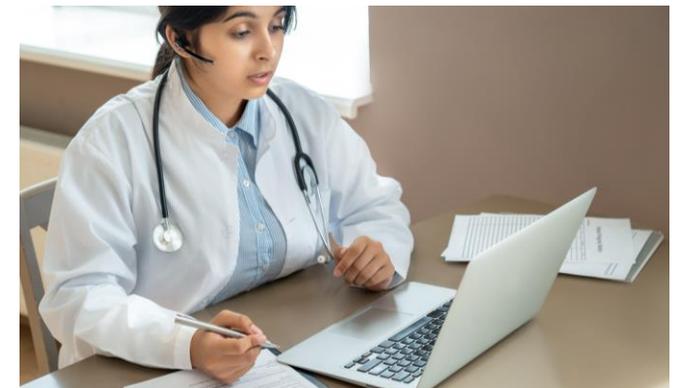
Distance Education

Continuing Professional Education

- Benefit: allowed to complete continuing professional education virtually

- Negative: sense of isolation and the loss of personal interactions

Professional Education Programs

- Benefit: colleges appreciated the ability to keep students on track to graduation

- Negative: lost clinical opportunities and access to personal supports

Q: What statutory/regulatory changes might you seek as a result of these experiences?

Emergency Practice Provisions & Scopes of Practice

- Executive Orders authorized the temporary expansion of scopes of practice in many health care professions.

- Many respondents intend to pursue legislative advocacy for some degree of expansion of their scopes of practice, consistent with the emergency provisions.

- State Boards stand ready to advise and assist the Board of Regents to ensure quality practice and public protection.

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Ongoing Impact

- Certain Professions wished their skills were more widely recognized by the Executive Orders and indicated they could have done more to contribute.

- Reduced access to care
  - ✓ Worsened health care staffing shortages
  - ✓ Demand for mental health services skyrocketed
  - ✓ Inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - ✓ Delays in preventative screenings and elective procedures

- Professionals and students experienced stress, burnout, and isolation.

Mental Health Needs of Students

- ER visits for suicide attempts by adolescents jumped 31% in 2020
- 21 school shootings since August 2021

1 in 3 HS students and ½ of female students reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, an overall increase of 40% from 2009.

Intensive

Targeted

Universal

- 7.1% of children aged 3-17 years are diagnosed with anxiety
- 3.2% of children aged 3-17 years are diagnosed with depression

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Supporting Students' Mental Health

Enhance School Connectiveness

| Create	Learn	Provide	Protect and prioritize	Expand
Create Positive, Safe, and Affirming School Environment	Learn to recognize signs of changes in mental and physical health in students	Provide a continuum of supports to meet mental health needs	Protect and prioritize students with higher needs or higher risk of mental health	Expand SEL approaches

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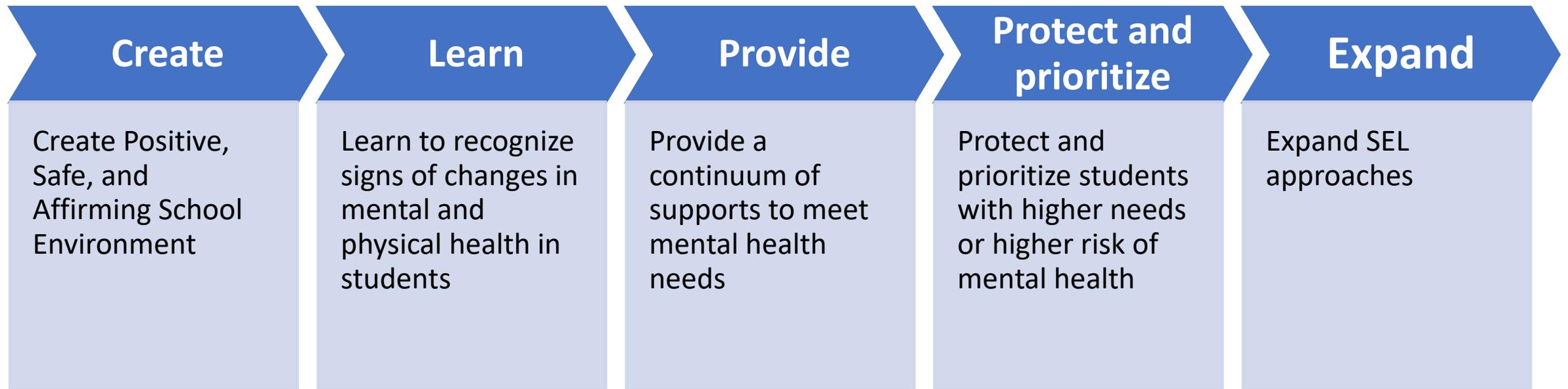
Supporting Students' Mental Health

These professionals can:

- conduct timely mental health screenings,

- identify students who are in crisis and who need intervention, and

- have established partnerships with youth-friendly mental health services for students needing intensive intervention.
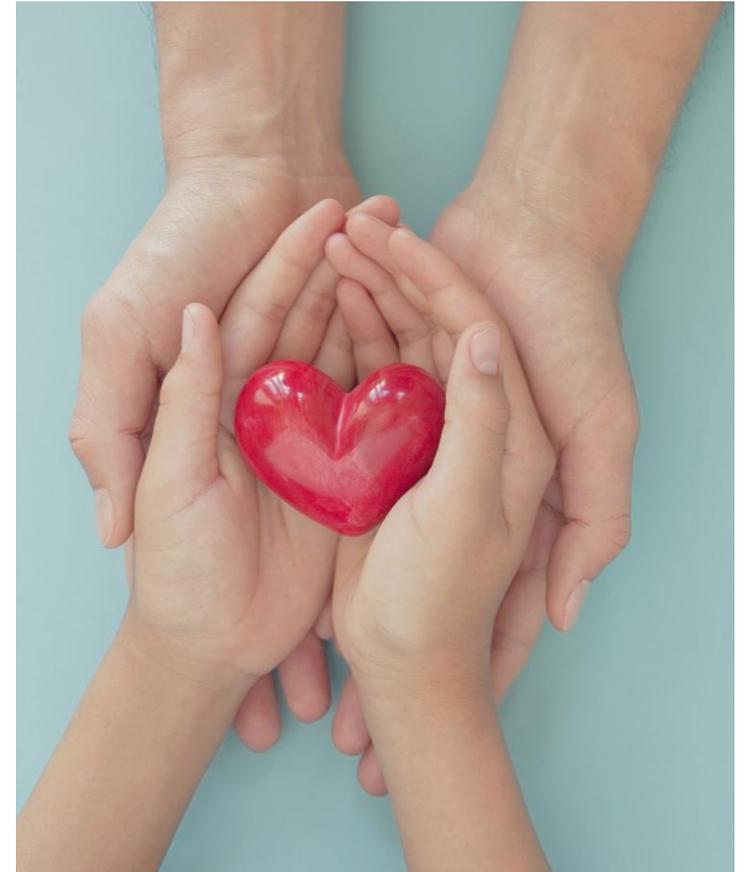
Suicide Companion Guide for Schools

Prevention

Risk Factors

Steps to Take

[A Companion Guide for School Personnel to the New York State Office of Mental Health's A Guide for Suicide Prevention in New York Schools](#) **provides school personnel with the knowledge to prevent, identify and act when a student is at risk for suicide**

Questions?