Housekeeping

- Everyone is muted upon entry.
- Use the “chat” feature to ask questions – set to “all panelists.”
- This webinar is being recorded.
- The slide deck and recording will be available within a week on our website kp.org/thrivingschools
Objectives

• Identify state school health policy opportunities that can be leveraged to support healthy, in-person learning.

• Understand how leaders in two states are working to support student health and wellness.

• Identify potential partners to support effective policy implementation.
About Kaiser Permanente

217K employees and 22K physicians
deliver high-quality care to members and on the front lines of COVID-19 response

12.3M people
get care + coverage from Kaiser Permanente

8 regions
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Mid-Atlantic States
- Northern California
- Southern California
- Northwest
- Washington

39 hospitals + 701 medical offices

exceptionally prepared
- telehealth options
- consolidation to meet critical needs
- careful supply management

COVID-19 response,

kp.org/thrivingschools
Kaiser Permanente supports schools in these unprecedented times

**RECIPROCAL IMPACT**
Recognize health impacts educational attainment and education impacts life-long health.

**CARING FOR THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY**
Understand the education landscape has changed drastically in response to COVID-19.

**ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS**
Activating partnerships with school health experts to provide support to schools, districts, educators & families.
Presenters

• **Alex Mays**, Senior National Program Director, *Healthy Schools Campaign*

• **Charlene Russell-Tucker**, Acting Commissioner, *Connecticut State Department of Education*

• **Sarah Blumenthal**, Assistant Director of Health and Wellness/Colorado State School Nurse Consultant, *Colorado Department of Education*
Role of Policy in COVID-19 Response
Changes in state policy and practice

- Expanded access to school meal program
- Increased flexibilities around utilizing telehealth to deliver school health services
- Waived testing and accountability requirements
- Issued school reopening guidance
- Increased cross-sector collaboration
Total number of WSCC components addressed in each state reopening plan

Source: Child Trends
Opportunities moving forward

• Build on best practices to formalize what works (e.g. telehealth)
• Continue cross-sector partnerships to support student and staff health
• Leverage COVID relief funding to meet immediate and future student health needs
• Leverage lessons learned to “disaster proof” school health programs and services
Thank you

Alex Mays
Senior National Program Director
alex@healthyschoolscampaign.org


Photos by Allison Shelley for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action
Policies and Initiatives to Support Student Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Connecticut State Department of Education
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Acting Commissioner

April 14, 2021
Connecticut’s Educational Landscape

- 527,829 Students
  - 48.9% Nonwhite
  - 43.3% Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals
  - 16.0% with Disabilities
  - 8.3% English Learners

- 205 School Districts
- 1,507 Schools/Programs
- 52,005 Certified Staff
Connecticut’s Rate of In-Person Learning

- March 2021—highest rate of in-person learning

LEARNING MODEL*

- 70.1% Fully In-Person
- 27.4% Hybrid
- 2.5% Fully Remote

Percentage of Districts offering a Predominantly Fully In-Person Learning Model by Week
Planning for the 2020-21 School Year
2020-21 School Reopening Guidance

- Input from a spectrum of educational stakeholders and public health officials
- Emphasized the importance of collaborating and working towards in-person learning models
- Sections devoted to health & safety protocols, health monitoring, and social-emotional, physical & mental health
- Included 11 addenda updated to changing needs and health & safety guidelines
Supports for Students, Families, and Districts

- Virtual House Call for Parents and Families
- Child Well-being Task Force
- CSDE Website Page Devoted to Compiling COVID-19 Resources for Families and Educators
- Professional Support Webinar Series for Districts
- Professional Support Webinar Series for Families
- Secured Approval to Operate Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
- Applying for federal waivers as available
  - *Over 12 million Child Nutrition Program meals served*
Data-Informed Policy Shift

- Report and utilize monthly attendance data to target supports

Priority Support Focus Areas:
- English Learners
- Family Engagement
- Homelessness
- Kindergarten
- School Climate/Equity
- Students with Disabilities
Continued Support During the 2020-21 School Year
6 WAYS the CSDE is Working to Keep Schools Open Safely

- Priority Access to COVID Testing
- BinaxNOW™ COVID Testing
- Vaccines for School Staff and Students
- Contact Tracing Support
- CSDE/DPH COVID-19 Health and Safety Tuesday
- Up-To-Date Guidance and Assistance

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- **Procured the Devereux Student Strengths SEL Assessment System**
- **Providing Flexibilities for Educator Evaluations**
- **Collaborating with State Agencies, Statewide Partners, and Communities**
- **Developed the Components of Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits**
- **And more!**
ESSER II State-Level Priorities

❖ School Safety and Social-Emotional Well-being of the “Whole Student” and of our School Staff
❖ Remote Learning, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide
❖ Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery
❖ Family and Community Connections
DPH and CSDE continue to urge individuals and organizations to take a cautious approach to planning and resumption of activities.

- Schools, individuals, and families all play a role.
- Work together to Finish Strong this school year!
Lessons Learned

- Cultivate strong, cross-sector partnerships
- Develop trusting relationships with stakeholders through effective, ongoing communication
- Deploy data-informed policies
- Focus on students, schools, families, and communities
- Remain agile and strive for continuous improvement
State Policies and Programs to Support Student Health

April 14, 2020
Denver, Colorado

Sarah Blumenthal, MSN, BSN, NCSN
Assistant Director of Health and Wellness/Colorado State School Nurse Consultant
Colorado Landscape

Population: 5.94 Million

8th Largest State

37th in Population Density
Colorado Education Landscape 2020-2021

- 883,199 Students
- 178 School Districts
- 149 Rural Districts (16% student population)
- 109 Small Rural Districts
- 88 Districts have less than 500 students

https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/coeducationfactsandfigures
## Colorado School District Reopening Plans

As of April 9, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-Person</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>98.71%</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
<td>0.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS/HS</td>
<td>22.63%</td>
<td>77.01%</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
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</table>
What went well between March 2020 & March 2021?
Resource Development for Schools

https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools
Strengthened Partnerships

State Government
State Agencies
Community Partners
School Leaders
Robust Support for School Nurses

- School Nurse Update Webinars
  - Weekly/Monthly
- School Nurse Office Hours
  - Monthly
  - More often as needed
- COVID-19 & Chronic Health Conditions Training Series
  - Four Sessions x 1.5 hours ea.
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
- School Nurse Orientation
  - Virtual 3 Day Program
  - Monthly Webinar
  - Monthly Group Check-in

https://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/shn_home
How did we do it?
Teamwork!

- Have a plan
- Include the right people
- Establish clear lines of authority
- Communicate often and effectively
- “Whole Person” approach
- Facing Challenges with Humility
Four Ways People Process Information During a Crisis

1. **WE SIMPLIFY MESSAGES**
   Use simple messages to respond

2. **WE HOLD ON TO CURRENT BELIEFS**
   Use credible sources

3. **WE LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND OPINIONS**
   Use consistent messages

4. **WE BELIEVE THE FIRST MESSAGE**
   Release accurate messages ASAP

[https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/ppt/CERC_Psychology_of_a_Crisis.pdf](https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/ppt/CERC_Psychology_of_a_Crisis.pdf)
• QR CODES
• Surveys
• Advisory Groups
• Attend meetings
Priorities Moving Forward
Maintaining Collaborative Work

Governor’s Office

Public Health

Supporting Student Health

Department of Education

Advisory Groups & Community Members

State Agency Partners
K-12 Schools COVID-19 Related Operations for 2021-2022

- Disseminating Updated School Guidance
- Whole-Person Wellness Approach
- Students with chronic conditions, disabilities, special health care needs
- Anticipating future needs
  - COVID-19 Vaccine
  - COVID-19 Testing
Honoring our journey....

Savoring the present
Embracing stories
Extracting lessons
Finding beauty
Contact Information

- Sarah Blumenthal, MSN, RN, NCSN
- Colorado Department of Education, Health and Wellness Unit
- Assistant Director of Health and Wellness, State School Nurse Consultant
- blumenthal_s@cde.state.co.us
- 303-866-6779
Join our upcoming webinars in the series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>District Policies and Programs to Support Student, Staff, and Teacher Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Building Strong Family-School Partnerships to Improve Student Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>Fostering Individual and Collective Well-Being Through Boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Modeling the Path to Self-Regulation for Students Through Me Moments</td>
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Additional resources

Available now at kp.org/thrivingschools

• **Download** the *Planning for the Next Normal at School Playbook*

• **Sign up for** future [webinars](#)

• **Watch** and **share** this PSA: [Educators Championing the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Coming soon:

• **Find** the slide deck and recording of this webinar (within a week)
We want to hear from you

• Two easy options:
  • Open your smartphone camera and focus it on the QR code and then click on the notification that pops up
  • Use the link - https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6253025/Reset-for-Readiness