



# 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**

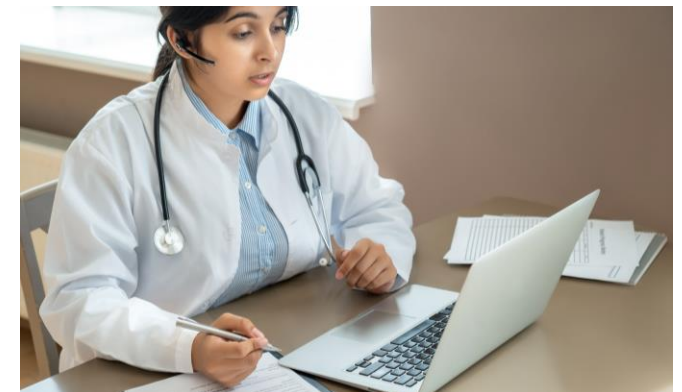
**“Yes, having a webpage devoted to COVID-19 on the SED website is helpful. In particular, having an updated FAQ document and a webpage devoted to executive order provisions impacting the various healthcare professions.” - HANYS**

**“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**

Q: How did professional practice change for the better/worse?  
Discoveries? Negative Impacts?

## 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.



Q:

How did professional education change for the better/worse? Discoveries? Negative Impacts?

## 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

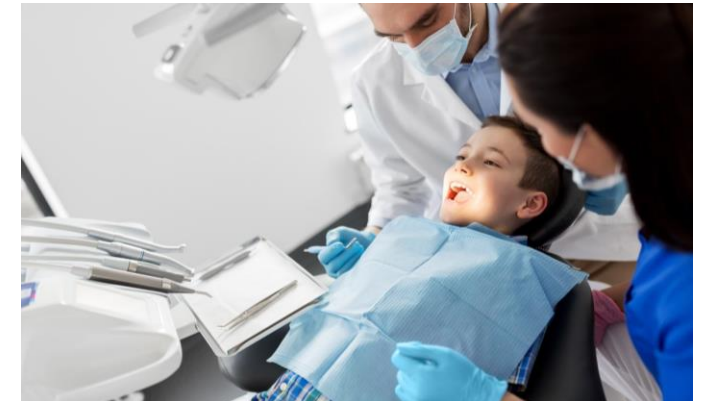
- Benefit: colleges appreciated the ability to keep students on track to graduation
- Negative: lost clinical opportunities and access to personal supports



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.





# 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

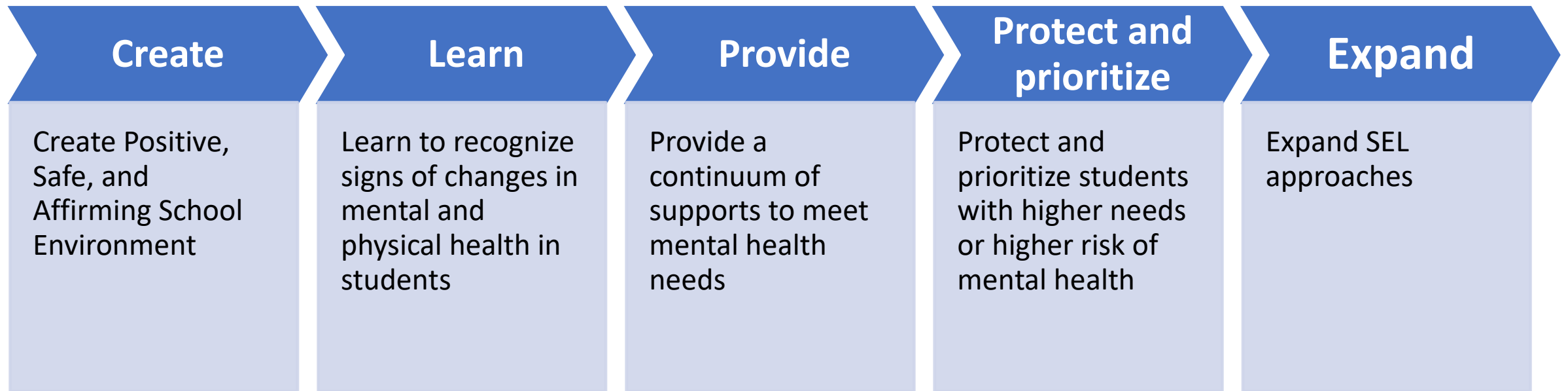
Targeted

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

# Supporting Students' Mental Health

## Enhance School Connectiveness



# 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



[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?