



The Shifting Policy and Practice Landscape of Telehealth in Schools

Webinar Description

In many states, schools are often the primary point of access for students to receive sexual and mental health services. In the midst of the pandemic, state policies and practices regarding telehealth are rapidly shifting. This webinar focused on the important considerations for state policymakers around providing safe, effective, and confidential sexual and mental health services remotely.



Speakers

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Key Takeaways

- Consider federal and state privacy, licensure, reimbursement, consent, and confidentiality policies and laws when implementing telehealth.
- The coronavirus pandemic has posed new challenges to providing telehealth equitably to all students including lack of broadband, technological devices, disparate availability of telehealth licensed professionals by location, and fewer in-person opportunities to make sure students are aware of available telehealth services.
- There are many federal, state, and local resources available to support adolescents in accessing sexual and mental health services through telehealth including the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers and others outlined later in this document.
- Physical and mental health service providers can collaborate to jointly see their patients virtually and provide more comprehensive physical and mental health care for their combined clients.

Resources

Telehealth Policy and Terminology

- American Public Health Association, *Telemedicine in school-based health centers: A profile of the Center for Rural Health Innovation*: https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/sbhc/recommendations_sbhc_health_reform.ashx?la=en&hash=75E4FA21B7AAA0CF8D7EC9A2817081FF59F94D0D
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, *Telehealth*: <https://www.astho.org/Telehealth/>
- Center for Connected Health Policy, *State telehealth laws and reimbursement policies report*: <https://www.cchpca.org/telehealth-policy/state-telehealth-laws-and-reimbursement-policies-report>
- Congressional Research Service, *The National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers: COVID-19 Assistance*: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46289>



- Healthy School Campaign, *Expanding school-based health services with telehealth*: https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Telehealth_Webinar_Slides_5-7-18.pdf
- Kaiser Family Foundation, *Opportunities and barriers for telemedicine in the U.S. during the COVID-19 emergency and beyond*: <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/opportunities-and-barriers-for-telemedicine-in-the-u-s-during-the-covid-19-emergency-and-beyond/>
- Medicaid.gov, *State Medicaid & CHIP telehealth toolkit policy considerations for states expanding use of telehealth*: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/medicaid-chip-telehealth-toolkit.pdf>
- National Association of School Nurses, *The role of school nursing in telehealth*: <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-telehealth>
- National Conference of State Legislatures, *State coverage for telehealth services*: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-coverage-for-telehealth-services.aspx>
- National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers: <https://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/resources/>
- National Governors Association, *Gubernatorial strategies for telehealth*: <https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Telehealth-Memo-20200320450pm.pdf>
- Power to Decide, *One key question*: <https://powertodecide.org/one-key-question>
- Rural Health Information Hub, *Legal considerations for implementing a telehealth program*: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/telehealth/4/legal-considerations>

HIPPA, Consent, and Confidentiality

- Congressional Research Service, *HIPAA, telehealth, and COVID-19*: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/LSB/LSB10490>
- Pediatric Health Network, *Teens and telehealth: Consent & confidentiality*: <https://pediatrichealthnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4.9.202-Teens-and-Telehealth-Consent-Confidentiality.pdf>
- Rural Health Information Hub, *Implementation considerations for telehealth programs serving children*: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/telehealth/4/specific-populations/children>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *OCR issues guidance on telehealth remote communications following its notification of enforcement discretion*: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/20/ocr-issues-guidance-on-telehealth-remote-communications-following-its-notification-of-enforcement-discretion.html>

Adolescent Mental and Sexual Health During COVID-19

- Kaiser Family Foundation, *A look at online platforms for contraceptive and STI services during the COVID-19 pandemic*: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/a-look-at-online-platforms-for-contraceptive-and-sti-services-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Kaiser Family Foundation, *Telemedicine in sexual and reproductive health*: <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/telemedicine-in-sexual-and-reproductive-health/>
- National Coalition of STD Directors, *COVID-19 and the state of the STD field*: <https://www.ncsddc.org/resource/covid-19-and-the-state-of-the-std-field/>
- SHIFT NC, *Sexual health and COVID-19: Information and resources*: <http://www.shiftnc.org/spotlight-story/sexual-health-and-covid-19-information-and-resources>
- The Trevor Project, *Implications of COVID-19 for LGBTQ youth mental health and suicide prevention*: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/2020/04/03/implications-of-covid-19-for-lgbtq-youth-mental-health-and-suicide-prevention/>

State Examples

- Ohio Department of Education, *Telehealth guidelines for service providers*: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Telehealth-Guidelines-for-Service-Providers>
- South Carolina Department of Education, *Telemedicine*: <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/medicaid-program-quality-assurance/telemedicine/>

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