



Learning Services

Distance Learning Safety Guidelines

Background

Despite being under the supervision of their parents and caregivers, educators are obligated to ensure the distance learning activities provided to students are safe and that students and their parents/caregivers are aware of how to undertake those activities safely.

Recommendations

In understanding that students will not have the same access to materials in the home as in the classroom, please use the following process when planning for distance learning activities such as Health and Physical Education, Science, The Arts, etc.:

Analyze

- Consider whether the lesson would be appropriate as an at home activity/project—if it would not be appropriate at school, it is not at home.
- When evaluating the appropriateness of an activity or project, staff must consider the hazards and risk level associated with the activity.
- Consider what consents and information need to be shared with the parents/caregivers.

Educate

- Design, deliver and document the safety instruction provided to students.
- Actively seek consent and educate parents/caregivers on how to undertake the activities safely.
- Use online or print resources and tools to complement lesson deliver (e.g. online videos) that demonstrate the use of the use of materials, tools, equipment, exercises, etc. the students are learning about.
- Consult appropriate safety guidelines (e.g. OPHEA, Technology Safety Manuals, Science Safety Manuals, etc.) and share instructions with students and parents/caregivers.
- Instruct and/or demonstrate the safety guidelines to students.

Mitigate

- Identified hazards need to be controlled appropriately to minimize the risk of injury to those participating.
- **If hazards cannot be effectively controlled then the activity/project may not be appropriate.**
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring equipment is in safe condition and activities are appropriate for students to use at home.
- Students **should not undertake experiments at home.**

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact **Jeff Adema, K-12 Program Learning Consultant.**