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# Resilience Report

*Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.*

*Social distancing guidance changes, spring breakers, and increased vaccination rates are putting pressure on school systems to evaluate and implement their in-person learning plans. This week on the Resilience Report, we look at lessons learned by school districts while they expand resilience to meet educational goals. We will also take a donut break and celebrate the lifesaving benefits of preparedness.*



## **Spring Break Mayhem.**

Miami Beach declared a [state of emergency](#) due to spring break crowds. [Other states](#) and [airports](#) have also begun to prepare for out-of-town visitors by issuing guidance and keeping a close eye on case counts.

## **Mass Shootings Surge.**

The recent tragic mass shootings in [Atlanta, GA](#) and [Boulder, CO](#) have coincided with loosening COVID-19 restrictions and are [prompting questions](#) on how America will respond to two mass killings in one week.

## **A New Approach to Risk Reduction in California.**

As sea levels continue to rise due to warming temperatures, more than \$100 billion worth of American homes are at risk of chronic flooding. In California, [innovative legislation has been introduced](#) to address these threats to coastal real estate.

## **The Virus Hunters.**

As part of a model developed in partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Banos, [researchers are hunting for new viruses](#) to develop simulation models that can assist the world in avoiding future pandemic events.



# SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: LESSONS FROM SCHOOLS

*Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. Schools have been striving to strike a delicate balance of student safety with quality learning. As more schools reopen to in-person sessions, here are resources highlighting up-to-date guidance and ongoing lessons from other districts.*

- [Rural schools in California](#) used COVID-19 relief money to pay teachers' salaries to help them avoid burning through sick leave, or working while feeling ill. Students have been grateful for a fairly normal school year, but in-person instruction came with risks.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have [revised school guidelines](#) to allow for three feet of distance between students in classroom and removed recommendations for physical barriers, allowing for more of a return to “normal” instruction.
- In addition to updated guidance, the CDC [found in a collaborative study](#) with the Washington University School of Medicine that transmission of COVID-19 in schools is rare when instruction incorporates masking, distancing, and contact tracing.
- **Today** is the latest training in a series of free sessions offered by the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network for American Indian and Alaskan Native school communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Register and attend](#) at 2:00pm Central.
- COVID-19 caused many schools nationwide [to take a sudden dive into new and innovative education technologies](#), and they may be here to stay. Educators are rethinking the “old normal” and adapting schedules, facilities, and placing new emphasis on mental and emotional health.

## Implementing Resiliency in the Classroom

The highlighted innovative practices and lessons learned can be distilled into a few suggestions for school districts moving forward in the new normal. While the implementation of these suggestions may look different depending on the community needs for each classroom, they can act as guiding principles for future pandemic readiness in education.

- **Ensure the Safety and Wellness of Teachers and Staff.** Work closely with teachers, staff, and unions to ensure the importance of their wellbeing is communicated and demonstrated. If new external partners have emerged during the pandemic, solidify those relationships to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for future readiness. Re-evaluate sick leave while maintaining flexibility to shift back to virtual education if needed.
- **Build Upon Communication with Parents and Guardians.** Continue to practice consistent communication with parents and guardians regarding safety protocols and requirements. Incorporate the reasons for these guidelines to provide parents and guardians with a “why,” which can help understanding and meeting expectations.
- **Explore Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) Structure for Vaccine Distribution.** As vaccine rollout continues, consider implementing a closed POD for [school district staff, teachers, and even students](#) to boost vaccination counts as schools reopen.

Did you know that CONSTANT supported the *Schools' Pandemic Influenza and Public Health Emergency Exercise Program*? Shoot us an [email](#) to talk to our staff!



### **Preparedness Saves A Life.**

The day after taking a CPR class, [a Florida teenager](#) was able to implement the skills she learned to save the life of her friend. After a car crash, she brought her friend back to consciousness using CPR while waiting for paramedics. An excellent example of preparedness in action!

### **Student Gives Back to Teacher.**

A teacher suffering from housing insecurity in the Fontana Unified School District [found a friend in a former student](#). The student used his social media network to raise over \$27,000 for the teacher!

### **Vaccinated? Get a free doughnut!**

Krispy Kreme is offering [one free doughnut](#) to all customers with a valid COVID-19 vaccination card. You can get a free doughnut every day if your heart desires it, so watch for that “hot now” sign to turn on!



## **We're Here to Support You**

If you need help with vaccine ops, COVID-19 AARs, return to work planning, or anything in between, shoot us an email at [jason@constantassociates.com](mailto:jason@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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