The term telehealth refers to “the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)). The use of telehealth services for mental health in school settings continues to grow, as technology offers many new opportunities to promote student well-being. As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the need to leverage technology when considering how services are delivered is increasingly urgent and necessary.

Here we provide resources to assist you and your school, district, and/or state teams and community partners in considering the use of various telehealth technologies for supporting student mental health. Resources include general information on telehealth policy and practice, including state-specific laws and regulation, along with information related to COVID-19 and associated implications for telehealth service provision.

Telehealth Policies & Federal COVID-19 Information

Current Telehealth-Related State Laws and Reimbursement Policies
Includes information on telehealth-related laws, regulation and Medicaid programs in all fifty states and the District of Columbia from the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center, Center for Connected Health Policy.

COVID-19 Related State Actions
Includes updated actions to remove telehealth barriers broken down by state, compiled by the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center, Center for Connected Health Policy.

Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency
Includes information on the easing of HIPAA telehealth enforcement for the COVID-19 emergency by the DHHS Office for Civil Rights.

FAQ on Telehealth and HIPAA During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency
Provides responses to frequency asked questions on the provision of telehealth as it related to HIPAA compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic from the DHHS Office for Civil Rights.

Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Medicare Coverage and Payment of Virtual Services
Offers information from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on broadened access to Medicare telehealth services in response to COVID-19.
Telehealth Training Resources

Telebehavioral Health Training and Technical Assistance
Includes a six-session training for identifying and implementing telehealth services from the DHHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions.

General Provider Telehealth and Telemedicine Tool Kit
Contains resources related to telehealth and telemedicine, including waiver information related to COVID-19, as well as general policy and set-up/implementation guidance from CMS.

Rural Telehealth Toolkit
Includes a series of modules on evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations in identifying and implementing telehealth programs in rural communities provided by the Rural Health Information Hub and supported by HRSA.

Telehealth Services for Early Intervention and Treatment

General Telehealth Resources (Direct Service Provision)

Considerations for Delivery of School Psychological Telehealth Services
Provides telehealth guidance for school psychologists, including benefits and concerns, certification and licensure, legal and ethical implications, and recommendations. Resources are provided in PDF form from the National Association of School Psychologists.

“Telepsychology”
Includes telepsychology tips and resources from the American Psychological Association.

Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology
Includes guidelines for providing telepsychology that are informed by relevant American Psychological Association (APA) Standards and Guidelines.

Telepsychology Best Practices 101 Series
Offers a series of webinars that introduce the learner to the ins and outs of tele-psychology provided by the American Psychological Association.

NASW, ASWB, CSWE, & CSWA Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice
Includes a uniform set of technology standards for professional social workers to use as a guide in their practice.

Planning for Virtual/Distance School Counseling During an Emergency Shutdown
Walks through steps to continue school counseling with technology provided by the American School Counselors Association.

Virtual Service Delivery in Response to COVID-19 Disruptions
Provides guidance on teleheath delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the National Association of School Psychologists.