

Distributed on April 10, 2020



A Message from the Safety Director

Many state and national leaders are indicating there is light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. There is optimism that life in the United States will return to some level of normalcy. Leaders of summer recreation departments should be planning not only for your 'typical' management of camps and their activities, but also contingency planning for social distancing interim precautions that may be in effect.

Training of summer supervisors and counselors will most likely need to be modified to include potential social distancing policies and procedures. The Safety Director is ready to assist with your training needs.

Every employee and volunteer should receive training on protecting children from sexual abuse and employee conduct. Visit the Protecting Children resource page at <https://njmel.org/mel-safety-institute/model-policies/protecting-children/> for training resources and information. Employee conduct training videos are available at <https://njmel.org/mel-safety-institute/resource-center/libraries/online-video-library/> under the Civil Rights heading. While on the Safety Video page, consider other safety videos, such as *101 Days of Summer* and *Changing the Way We Think About Safety*.

The MEL Safety Institute, MSI, offers two relevant online classes for counselors; Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) and Hazard Communication (HazCom). BBP class is required for most camp counselors as they are expected to attend to injured or sick children under their care until trained medical caregivers arrive. If the camp includes any hazardous chemicals beyond household cleaners or disinfectants in household amounts, staff must also learn to protect themselves from the chemical hazards by taking the HazCom class. Both online courses include a short quiz and a discussion guide for leaders to supplement the online content.

The MSI online catalog includes the following classes that may be necessary depending on your operation:

- Aquatic Safety for Camp Counselors
- Bullying Prevention at Camp
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention at Camp
- Playground Safety for Camp Counselors
- Practicing Hand Hygiene
- Protecting Children From Sexual Abuse for Employees and Volunteers
- The Professional Lifeguard

- Trip and Transportation Safety

Flyers with course descriptions and log-in instructions for online classes which can be given to counselors are available at <https://njmel.org/mel-safety-institute/online-classes/>

The Safety Director also has created a series of 8 short lesson plans for supervisors to deliver to counselors during morning meetings. Safety professionals know that short blasts of relevant information is the most effective means to convey information in a way that is easy for the student to grasp and utilize. Topics include poison ivy, chiggers, and sunburn. They are available at <https://njmel.org/mel-safety-institute/online-classes/>.

If you have training needs beyond those currently available, please contact the Safety Director. Our staff of loss control consultants can assist.

Please share this information widely with leaders of summer programs in your organization.