COVID-19 and Virtual School Counseling Resources

At this time, Governor Sununu has issued the statement that schools will remain closed until April 3rd, leaving many districts and educators wondering how best to support students virtually in an attempt to provide continuity with learning. Many may argue that even more important than efforts surrounding academia are the efforts necessary to meet students' social and emotional needs.

NHSCA’s goal over the next few weeks is to meet you where you are and to support you as best we can. We also want to be mindful of the amount of information and resources we share, during an already overwhelming time.  As much as we are here to support our students, please also know that we are here to support you as well. We recognize the uncertainty of important events like AP exams, SATs, career days, awards nights, proms and commencement. We recognize that our students are looking to us for comfort and strength which assumes that we are also being comforted and feeling strong. Should you feel as though you simply need a listening ear, a thought partner, or a problem solver, please know that we are here for you.

RESOURCES:

Virtual School Counseling Resources

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has forced districts to review and implement emergency shutdown plans. Plans should outline comprehensive school counseling services that will be provided and address equity and access issues such as ensuring students have access to computers and the internet. [Download the PDF](https://nhsca.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=QPng3qMpFevtMt8Fel%2b3wgU1HIh8rSTOKuMF7dRvNN0VMZiYLtHb8go2%2fJ2Dj2JiXWVNIP6HY4cwuZux5C59UYr9nwvqdeeuKvViz%2bOXoqc%3d) of Planning for Virtual/Distance School Counseling During an Emergency Shutdown and check out these additional resources:

If you are concerned about the Ethical Standards for School Counselors performing virtual counseling, check out the [ASCA Ethical Standards](https://nhsca.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=1tdwoG6qFynz7q%2bbHqLZd88oFbwNR%2f0rm3WLzUjvcNCjIVqsZb%2beiyE%2bCuMciJsFYqYxedGFgfKS9YcX%2b2ulLUC8NCxte%2bncTjgsZvk9cfo%3d), section A-15.

Professional Development - If you have some extra time and would like access to free or reduced cost professional development, here are two suggestions:

* ASCA U Specialists -From March 17– May 15, ASCA is offering their [ASCA U Specialist](https://nhsca.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=6UBigdqC9B97GN4CUde%2bSb7ROFHlXiu8U5r6oI6Ih2GtnFrP2JwmogdTyqZPuytvWKmZg8NDehUgq%2bdLvX1Vl0VQSRngQvS1hK5DtuWecjY%3d) trainings for only $29 for members (regularly $99) and $49 for nonmembers (regularly $249).
* Crowdsourcing Ideas and Strategies – The [ASCA SCENE](https://nhsca.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=%2bp2qrlCdnfyQNJi9f8o3W0pHvNccILaGWGjaoNCePFUsaFy8WDls0TOH9WIyA8PeCozsvklPhC8%2bLONbohhdBa29zkQyG25cBc2mKrDal%2bI%3d) provides a great forum for sharing the tools and resources you're using to provide school counseling remotely. Threads have been started in each grade-level community (Elementary, Middle, High School). Please share your ideas and gather insights from others.

College applications, visits and deposits – The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) has created a [list of current institutions](https://nhsca.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=lMYd6vzndfa3mWPP%2fqblCyR7Ww0nLnyuDqJ8ISREywx5EoopbwtsQOLUNxetdAJ7DDbWFWIUXJMII9ChLs3CtYfGJkW4e0ENQEU3A6ihj50%3d) which have changed their candidate reply date from May 1 and deposit deadline, cancelled visit and accepted student programs, and/or closed Admission Offices to visitors.

Additional COVID-19 Resources - Here are some [suggestions and resources](https://nhsca.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=EUtEyL7M%2bAr0AKZBNotGP37feYQOzVc5KvSNR%2fLBJB1%2bh2ElKA4wJC7sJAIxPXlxKEsu8kiW8lcpUG5hQnQeWsUhe4FwN1TGUAf6riFDLqY%3d) to consider as you provide support to your students regarding COVID-19, as well as links to other education-related organizations with valuable information to share, including details about SAT/ACT, AP tests, etc.

Wishing you success as you begin your virtual journey and comfort in knowing that we are all in this - together!

Truly,

Alison Memoli, NHSCA President