

## psi's Online Newsletter for the Education Community



Special Education • Psychologists • Speech Pathologists • School Health  
ESL and Foreign Languages • Teachers, Tutors, and More!

Welcome to the latest edition of *psi's* Paradigm! We are excited to bring you these great articles and updates. Read on for important updates, new requirements, and more.



### Looking Ahead: Goodbye 2020!

by [Steve Rosenberg, Ph.D.](#)  
psi President and CEO

Now that 2020 is in our rearview mirror, we are all hopefully well into the new year focused on brighter times ahead filled with good health and new opportunities.

Needless to say, the pandemic plunged us into very challenging and disconcerting circumstances. On behalf of all of us at **psi**, I would like to thank you for your dedication and flexibility to meet the pandemic head on, never wavering in your commitment to provide the very best for the students and families you serve. We are proud to have been on the journey with you, supporting you in these seemingly Herculean efforts to meet the educational and health needs of your students.

As we continue to work diligently to complete this school year and begin planning for 2021-2022, I want to assure you that **psi** has the same sense of purpose and conviction to approach the months ahead and assist you in whatever successes and challenges the future may hold. Thank you in advance for your continued support and commitment to your students, families and communities.

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# Thank You, Colleen!

We would like to wish the very best to Colleen Lorber, who recently moved on from her role at **psi**. Colleen was a positive and energetic influence, and we are very appreciative of all that she did for **psi** and our schools during her time with us.

Good luck, Colleen! We will miss you!



## **psi** named Regional Affiliate of Ohio's GEER Grant; will work to implement the Ohio School Wellness Initiative



As part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) grant, **psi** has been named as a regional affiliate to work with 11 counties to develop and implement the Ohio School Wellness Initiative: Enhancing the Full Continuum of Care (Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services) for Ohio's K-12 Schools. In partnership with Miami University, the Ohio Schools Wellness Initiative was designed to explore, implement, and sustain a full continuum of care including prevention, early intervention, and treatment practices for K-12 students within local districts who adopt student assistance programs, Tier II/III supports, and staff wellness frameworks.

The cornerstone of this initiative is the development of a model SAP that can serve as a best practice standard for Ohio's K-12 schools. Throughout this initiative, integrative approaches will be identified to strengthen Tier II supports (i.e. social skills, self-management, and academic supports) and Tier III supports (intensive, individualized supports such as functional behavioral assessments and wraparound services) within the Ohio Model SAP for students experiencing substance use, mental health, and behavioral health concerns. In alignment with the Ohio Whole Child Framework, a Staff Wellness Framework will be developed to promote wellness among school administrators and staff. Crucial to the success of this project is the collaborative partnership with education and mental health professionals throughout the state to establish regional networks of support for school districts as they implement and sustain these three components.

Click here for more information on the GEER grant <https://bit.ly/38SZKh5>, or contact *Mike Tornow*, **psi** Director of Marketing & Development at [miketornow@psi-solutions.org](mailto:miketornow@psi-solutions.org).



## COVID-19 Vaccine Education

By [Dr. Carly Wilbur](#), UH Pediatrician and [psi](#) Medical Director

The arrival of COVID-19 vaccines stirs up mixed feelings. Many doctors and scientists are hailing this a new chapter in the fight toward ending the pandemic. However, there are others who are distrustful of these measures and are inclined to mistrust science and the government. [Click here](#) or on the link below for an article that will provide a brief tutorial of COVID-vaccine terminology and help debunk some of the more dangerous myths surrounding the vaccine's rollout. The goal is to make the reader a more educated consumer.

First, the article will define some of the terms surrounding the introduction of these products. Then, it will address some of the most common misconceptions surrounding COVID-19 vaccines.

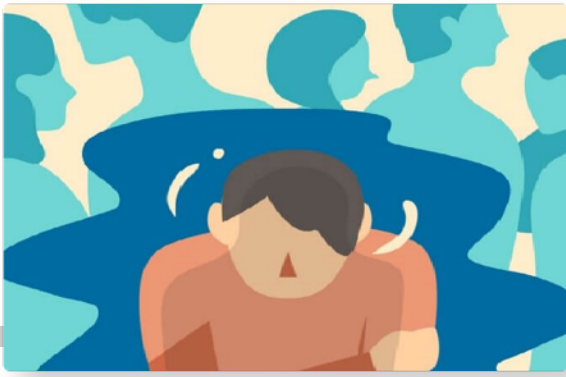
**OPERATION WARP SPEED** refers to the effort to fast-track the development of COVID-19 vaccines. While it typically takes years to advance an idea into a marketable product that clears the FDA's rigorous safety benchmarks, the path for the development of these vaccines was accelerated in order to save lives. The shortened timespan was a result of mass production of vaccines even while final stages of clinical trials were being conducted, rather than proceeding step-wise and waiting for completion of all trial stages. These vaccines came to market faster than normal not because clinical safety was compromised, but because steps that normally occur in series (i.e. first: complete the clinical trials, second: manufacture large quantities of the vaccine) happened simultaneously.

**EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION (EUA)** is a mechanism that is employed to help facilitate the rollout of health-related products (like medical countermeasures including vaccines) before they are FDA-approved as long as certain criteria are met. These include the existence of a public health emergency and the absence of any available alternatives. Additionally, the product must satisfy minimum safety and efficacy standards.

**MESSENGER RNA (mRNA)** is responsible for delivering instructions to protein-building parts of a cell regarding what proteins to manufacture. This process is called transcription, and can be manipulated depending on what the mRNA is programmed to instruct. DNA uses genetic code, a series of nucleotides in a particular order, that is carried by mRNA to translate genetic instructions for protein production. This essentially serves as the recipe for creating a given protein. When used in a vaccine, the mRNA delivers this genetic code directly to the cell. We've all seen illustrations of what the Coronavirus germ looks like under the microscope, with its crown-like collection of spikes projecting from the surface of the cell. The COVID-19 mRNA vaccine instructs the recipient's body to manufacture this spike protein, which then prompts the immune system to create a corresponding antibody against the spike. The process offers all of the benefits of homegrown immunity without the risks of actually getting a COVID-19 infection. While the use of mRNA in vaccines is relatively new, the technology behind it has been studied for years. BioNTech and other laboratories have been exploring its use to fight HIV/AIDS, seasonal Influenza, Zika virus, Rabies, CMV, and even cancer (by way of triggering specific immune cells). Once the genetic code for the COVID-19 virus was published in February of 2020, the next logical step was to employ mRNA technology to fight COVID. Other vaccines, like the Flu vaccine, utilize a different mechanism to prime the immune system, often employing a weakened version of the microbe to prompt an antibody response. These vaccines use fertilized chicken eggs to incubate the virus, and once mature, it is chemically rendered non-infectious and delivered to the body in vaccine form. This inactivated version of the germ stimulates the body to generate an antibody response. One major benefit of mRNA-based vaccines is that their production time is faster than the necessary wait time involved in germinating a microbe in an egg vessel.

[Click Here](#) for the whole article.

[Click Here](#) for more on Dr. Carly Wilbur.



## Youth Mental Health First Aid program offered by [psi](#)

[psi](#), under the direction of *Training and Education Manager* [Dr. Julian Dooley](#), is pleased to be actively training educators across the state as part of the national Youth Mental Health First Aid program. The program—designed for teachers, school staff, coaches and other adults who regularly interact with adolescents aged 12-18 years—introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems experienced by adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to assist and support an adolescent in a mental health crisis or non-crisis situation. This is an outstanding evidence-based program that is even more valuable now during such trying times in our world. Talk to [psi](#) about bringing this program to your school.

[Click here](#) for more information.

[Click here](#) to email Dr. Dooley.

## New K-12 School Safety Requirements from HB 123



**H**ouse Bill 123 passed the 133rd Ohio General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine on December 21, 2020. If your school is in need of meeting the new school safety requirements in these areas, [psi](#) can help get your school in compliance. A few of the bill's impacts are highlighted below:

- Requires all schools and districts to provide annual training covering suicide awareness and prevention, safety training and violence prevention, and social inclusion for grades 6-12.
- Requires every 6-12 grade school building to create a threat assessment team within two years of the effective date.
- Transfers school emergency management responsibilities from the Ohio Department of Education to the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
- Requires schools and districts to adopt an anonymous reporting program of their choosing beginning with the first full school year following the date the bill passes (2021-2022 school year). Schools can enroll in the Ohio School Safety Center's free Safer Ohio School Tip Line or sign up with a third party service that shares data with the state.

[Click Here](#) for additional requirements and full analysis of HB 123



## The Ohio School Safety Center

On August 21, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-21D creating the Ohio School Safety Center within Ohio Homeland Security. The center is responsible for assisting local schools and law enforcement with preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety. The mission of the center is to provide guidance to Ohio schools in order to enhance their strategies for safety, security, and emergency plan development in accordance with the School Climate Guidelines, School Safety/Emergency Operations Plan Template and Ohio Law.

[Click here](#) to visit the OSSC website.

## New! Pain Management Course Now Available



A new Pain Management course is now available for high school and middle school students. **psi** would like to extend a special thank you to *University Hospitals' Connor Integrated Medicine, Kent State University, IMG Academies and Banyan Treatment Centers* for their partnership in the creation of this course. Specific thanks to *Dr. Jeanne Lackamp, Dr. David Miller, Robert Ettinger, Dr. Anne Stormorken, Luke Wollet, James Tunney, Tom Sitko and Mitch Peterson*. This new interactive course is broken down into five modules presented in four or six weeks, and covers types of pain, causes and treatment of pain, addiction and coping skills. It is endorsed by University Hospitals and **psi** and storied by *Luke Wollet*. We are looking for new schools to pilot this program for the remainder of the school year. If interested, please contact *Mike Tornow, psi Director of Marketing and Development* at (330) 425-8474, ext 200.



[Click Here](#) to email Mike Tornow.



## Cleaning and Disinfecting: An important part of reopening and keeping schools open

COVID-19 procedures include strict adherence to cleaning and disinfecting our schools, classrooms and staff areas. **psi** would like to make you aware of an environmentally friendly and cost-effective option for your disinfecting and sanitizing needs.

It features a three-pronged approach called *The Power of Three*. It is a trademarked, disinfecting concept created by the DriveMind Group that integrates the following three solutions: Tersano Technology to create Stabilized Aqueous Ozone (SAO), MyShield Hospital Grade Disinfectant WITH an Antimicrobial Surface Sealant, and an Electrostatic Sprayer to apply both solutions.

The products are environmentally friendly, with no chemicals. DriveMind offers sales of the products direct to your school, or you can opt for their disinfecting and sanitizing services.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### psi S.A.F.E. Schools



**psi's S.A.F.E. Schools** is an evidence-informed series of resilience-building programs aimed at grades K-5 (S.A.F.E. Buddies), 6-8 (S.A.F.E. Skills), and 9-12 (S.A.F.E. Success). Recognizing that student social, emotional, behavioral, and academic success requires a strong support system, S.A.F.E. Schools also includes the S.A.F.E. Educators (focused on school staff) and S.A.F.E. Communities (focused on parents/caregivers) programs to promote stress management, self-care, and resiliency in adults. The K-12 S.A.F.E. programs address the Ohio Department of Education social-emotional learning standards. Importantly, **psi's S.A.F.E. Schools** also includes a series of focused sessions on topics such as bullying and violence prevention, safe technology use, social skills training, emotional intelligence, and teen dating violence.

More information to come!

# HAVE A GREAT 2021!