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## Practicing Social Distancing and Following all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directives

With the State of New Mexico in a state of declared emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial that NMPSIA schools providing essential services to their communities are ***practicing social distancing and following all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) directives*** [put in place](#) by the State.

All essential workers in New Mexico schools should either be performed remotely or with careful attention to maintaining social distancing guidelines and PPE usage when the work cannot be completed remotely.

### Social Distancing

[Social distancing guidelines](#) include limiting face-to-face contact and maintaining six feet or two meters distance from other persons. To practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

### PPE

All school employees whose job duties have been deemed essential but cannot be performed remotely must utilize the proper PPE when performing their job duties, including gloves and face coverings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is providing [guidance on the creation and use of face coverings](#).