

NORRIS, MURRAY & PELOQUIN, LLC

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BEACON ARTICLE

Check out our article - "Planning is key should reductions become necessary" - in the June edition of The Beacon (a monthly publication of the Massachusetts Municipal Association). The article touches on the difference between layoffs and furloughs, unemployment benefits, and bargaining obligations. The Beacon (available online and in PDF form) @ page 14.

CORONAVIRUS REOPENING PHASE 2

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Summer 2020 Special Education Services

On June 8, 2020, Commissioner Riley and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released Guidance on Summer 2020 Special Education Services (Guidance). The 12-page memo supplements the initial Re-Opening Guidance released on June 4, but is not the final guidance which is expected to be released on or before July 6, 2020. In-person summer programs may not begin until DESE's final summer guidance is released.

The Guidance recognizes that remote learning may continue to be the safest and most feasible option for many districts, however, it recommends that schools and districts use "best efforts to provide as many in-person services to high-priority students this summer as is feasible while following proper health and safety precautions." The document focuses on: the health and safety requirements that must be followed in order to provide in-person services; the identification of high-priority students; staffing and grouping requirements; protective equipment; and situation specific protocols for toileting, physical restraint, and transportation. The Guidance also addresses the training and education requirement. The DESE is working with the Department of Public Health to engage a nurse trained in infection control to record a training to be shared with school nurses to facilitate a train the trainer scenario.

Regardless of whether services are to be remote or in-person, schools must communicate with families that Summer 2020 services will be different this year than prior summer services and that a top priority remains the health and safety of students and staff. It may be that some services are remote and some in-person, or that the summer program begins remotely and transitions to in-person later in the summer. A copy of the Commission's message about summer services and Guidance memo are available on our website.

What's online @ nmplabor.com

The NMP website has our COVID-19 Client Advisors as well as new legislation and resources for city, town and school leaders and managers. In case you missed it, here is a sampling of what is available online:

- Summer 2020 Special Education Services
- Required Safety Supplies for Re-Opening Schools
- DOE Issues Guidance on Providing Services to EL During COVID-19
- Unemployment Insurance Benefits and Returning to Work: Employer Guide

These posts and many more are available online on our COVID-19 Resources page.