



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

Executive Directive No. 20-036

**Approval of Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Training Programs for
School Personnel Pursuant to Paul’s Law (P.L. 2019, Chapter 290)**

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2020, Governor Murphy signed into law “Paul’s Law,” concerning the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders; and

WHEREAS, Paul’s Law requires all school personnel to be educated about epilepsy and seizure disorders, how to recognize and provide care for epilepsy and seizure disorders, and when to call for assistance; and

WHEREAS, Paul’s Law further requires that boards of education shall coordinate the provision of epilepsy and seizure disorder care at the school and ensure that all staff are trained in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders, including staff working with school-sponsored programs outside of the regular school day; and

WHEREAS, Paul’s Law further requires that the training for staff include a Department of Health-approved on-line or in-person course of instruction provided by a non-profit national organization that supports the welfare of individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Epilepsy Foundation is a national non-profit organization that, among other things, connects people to treatment, support and resources; leads advocacy efforts; and educates the public about epilepsy and seizure first aid; and

WHEREAS, the Epilepsy Foundation offers online and in-person training for personnel who work with children and youth in school settings (including school nurses, teachers, aides, coaches, administrators and others) by providing an overview of seizures and epilepsy; seizure first aid; seizure action plans; rescue therapies; and seizure emergencies and how to support students in school settings (<https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education/seizure-training-school-personnel>); and

WHEREAS, the Epilepsy Alliance of America is a national non-profit organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of and providing support, care, training and services for those living with epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, the Epilepsy Alliance of America provides online and in-person training for personnel who work with children and youth in school settings (including nurses, teachers and support staff) as to how to recognize common seizure types and their possible impact; seizure first aid; how to recognize when a seizure is a medical emergency; and how to best provide support for individuals who experience seizures (<https://www.epilepsyallianceamerica.org/programs-services/>); and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Judith Persichilli, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health, by virtue of the authority vested in me do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT**:

(1) The following trainings are hereby approved by the Department of Health as a course of instruction pursuant to Paul's Law:

- Online or in-person "Seizure Training for School Personnel" offered by the Epilepsy Foundation; and
- Online or in-person "T.R.U.S.T. Seizure Recognition and First Aid" offered by the Epilepsy Alliance of America.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Directive shall become effective immediately and shall remain in effect unless modified, rescinded or superseded by rule or statute.



Judith Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner of Health

December 11, 2020

Dated