



**SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES
BEST PRACTICES
CLEARINGHOUSE**

Lessons from the Field: Strategies for Safely Returning to School: The Latest Federal Guidance

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Christian Rhodes

Chief of Staff, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Mr. Christian Rhodes served as Chief of Staff for Prince George's County Public Schools. In this role, Rhodes supported the chief executive officer through management of specific business functions of the school system. He began his career as a political organizer for the Maryland State Teachers Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association, and education advisor Office of the Prince George's County Executive. Rhodes has a Master of Public Administration degree from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Neha Cramer

MPH, Lead, Schools Unit, Community Intervention and Critical Populations Task Force, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ms. Neha Cramer started at the CDC in 2012 primarily to develop and update technical guidance and to create communication, education, and training resources for pandemic flu community mitigation and nonpharmaceutical interventions. She co-led the development of the *Community Mitigation Guidelines to Prevent Pandemic Influenza – United States, 2017* published as an *MMWR-RR* in April 2017, which was used as the foundation for the COVID-19 response. Cramer recently accepted the position as the Schools Unit Lead within the

Community Guidance team as part of the Community Intervention and Critical Populations Task Force for CDC's COVID-19 response.

Jessica McKinney

MPP, CGFM; Grants Policy Office; Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development; U.S. Department of Education

Jessica McKinney serves in the Grants Policy Office in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education. She focuses on education finance, support for English learners, education for Native youth and migrant students, school safety and disaster recovery, assessment and accountability, and grants monitoring. Since 2009, she has held a variety of P-12 policy roles within the Department, including in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Office of the Deputy Secretary. Jessica began her career as an elementary school teacher and has experience at D.C. Public Schools and Baltimore City Schools central offices. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree with a focus on Budgeting and Public Finance from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Georgetown University.