



DIRECTOR  
Office of State Assessment

September 2021

**TO:** Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools  
Leaders of Charter Schools  
Science Coordinators  
Living Environment Teachers

**FROM:** Zachary Warner

**SUBJECT:** Providing Laboratory Activities for Living Environment Part D Virtually During the 2021-22 School Year

The Regents Examination in Living Environment is made up of four parts (Parts A, B, C, and D). Part D consists of questions based on a series of required laboratory activities completed during the school year. In order to prepare for the Part D section of this examination, students participate in a series of required laboratory activities. Each examination tests at least three of the four required laboratory activities. Additional information on the laboratory requirement for the 2022 Regents Examinations in science may be found in the August 2021 memorandum “Virtual Laboratory Experiences and the 1,200 Minute Science Laboratory Requirement for the 2021-22 School Year.”

[Prior guidance](#) from the Department on maintaining the integrity of the laboratory activities for Living Environment Part D prohibited their modification and electronic/virtual provision to students. Recognizing the variation in instruction, the Department removed these restrictions for the 2020-21 school year and is doing so again for the 2021-22 school year. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce, electronically (i.e., scanned) if necessary, the Student Laboratory Packet and the Student Answer Packet in limited quantities for local use in instruction. The Teacher’s Guides are not to be provided to students and should not be reproduced electronically or shared virtually. This permission does not apply to mass distribution of these materials, virtually or otherwise, and electronic reproduction should only be used in cases where schools are delivering hybrid or fully remote instruction to students in a Living Environment course. As stated in the memorandum included with the Part D Laboratory Activities, districts are required to retain satisfactory written reports for a time period of at least six months following the examination. Reports may be retained via digital or hard copy.

Please contact the Office of State Assessment at [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) with questions on the laboratory activities or to obtain hard copies of the laboratory activities, including Student Laboratory Packets and Student Answer Packets in alternate languages and in Unified English Braille. At this time, the Department is only able to provide the laboratory materials in hard copy. Schools providing materials to students virtually are required to create electronic files.