This two-part episode discusses the transition to and from distance learning. In Part 1, our guests talk about how mental health supports in schools can help with addressing the effects that distance learning has had on students. In Part 2, guests talk about school resource officer roles in the distance learning environment, the importance of emergency response planning, and key considerations about returning to in-person learning.

Guests: Brooke Albert, Nicole Hockley, Danny Carlson, Katherine Schweit, Ron Applin, Chris Melde

Learning Outcomes
» Predict the breadth of challenges that school communities face in transitioning to and from distance learning.
» Suggest potential solutions to the challenges students and staff may face in returning to in-person learning.
» Reflect on how staff roles, responsibilities, collaboration, and response plans may have changed.

Key Takeaways
✓ It is important for school safety teams to consider how the entire school community dealt with the switch to and from remote learning — that includes students, teachers, staff, parents, and many others.
✓ Infrastructure is also important in addressing mental health needs. School principals are uniquely situated to lead efforts like implementing Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in their schools.
✓ No matter the learning environment, all school safety teams should regularly review their response plans to determine which staff are responsible and how their roles may have changed.
✓ Conflict is inevitable, especially in times of crisis. The good news is that schools can plan to mitigate conflict by addressing how, where, and when to respond.

Additional Resources
Trauma-Informed Practices Across School Settings (on-demand webinar)
Student Mental Health in a Distance Learning Environment (on-demand webinar)
School Safety Success Stories: Atlanta Public Schools Case Study (video)
Improving School Climate & Safety Through Inter-Professional Collaboration (on-demand webinar series)

Questions for Discussion
» What information have you gathered from your school community about how the shift to and from distance learning affected them?
» How is your school planning to mitigate conflicts as they arise? How will staff react to increased student anxiety or other signs of distress?
» When was the last time your school safety team reviewed its response plans? Do they account for the current learning environment?