

Child Safety During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Guidance for people who work with children and families

With school closures and stay-at-home orders in place as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we need to increase awareness and stay vigilant to keep children safe and healthy.

The following guidance and resources will help those working with families assess child safety needs and help identify signs of abuse or neglect virtually.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

TO HELP ASSESS NEEDS & SAFETY WITHIN THE HOME

Safety First – Consider the possibility that it may not be safe for someone to talk to you.

1. Is now a good time to talk? If not, is there a better time for me to call?

Potential follow-up questions

- Is everyone okay
- Is there someone I should call for you?
- Are you safe? Do you need help right now?

Basic Needs

2. Is everyone able to get what they need to get by? (Food, clothing, housing, medical care) Have there been any problems?

Potential follow-up questions

- Are you able to access what you need to care for your family? What would help?
- Who can help you? Do you have supportive family, friends, or neighbors to help you and your children?

Relationships

3. How is everyone getting along with each other? Is anyone having a hard time?

Potential follow-up questions

- How is everyone passing the time? Do you have activities you do together? Do you need ideas?
- Are you worried about anyone? Why?

Parenting

4. What's it like parenting right now? How is it different? What's going well? What are some of the challenges?

Potential follow-up questions

- Do you have what you need to support your children academically? What is your plan for their education? Do you need support?
- Have you noticed changes in your child's behavior? Are you concerned?
- Who were your children connected to outside the home? How are they staying in touch to their friends?

Well Being

5. How are you holding up?

Potential follow-up questions

- Is anyone having a hard time? Are you finding it difficult to bounce back or manage?
- What seems to be bothering you the most? Do you need any help?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN TO HELP ASSESS NEEDS & SAFETY WITHIN THE HOME

1. Tell me about how things are going at home. How are things going for you?

Potential follow-up questions

- Are you feeling okay?
- Are you worried about anything?

2. Who is taking care of you? What are they doing?

Potential follow-up questions

- Who makes sure you have everything you need? What do they do?
- Who wakes you up in the morning? Who makes your meals? Who do you eat with?
- Who takes care of you when you get hurt? What do they do?
- Where do you sleep at night? Does anyone else sleep with you? Do you sleep well?

3. How is everyone getting along with each other? Is anyone having a hard time?

Potential follow-up questions

- Who lives or stays in your home (including pets)? Who visits?
- Are you worried about anyone? Why?
- How can you tell when someone in your home is having a hard time? What do they do? What makes them feel better?

4. Tell me about what you do during the day.

Potential follow-up questions

- What things do you like to do at home? What don't you like to do?
- Do you have responsibilities at home? What are they?
- What is everyone doing all day? Do you have activities you do together?

5. What do you like most about staying at home? What do you like least? Why?

Potential follow-up questions

- What are the rules in your house? What happens when someone breaks a rule? (Sibling, pet, mom, dad?)
- What are some of the best things about being at home?
- What are you doing for fun?
- What do you miss the most about school? Why?

RESOURCES

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- If you are worried about the safety of a child or youth, please **call 1-800-932-0313 or 215-683-6100** to make a confidential report. Trained staff are available to take reports and investigate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

MENTAL HEALTH

- **PA Crisis Text Line:** Text a trained Crisis Counselor. It's free, confidential, and available 24/7. **Text "HOME" to 741741**
- You can't support anybody else if you're not supporting yourself first. If you're feeling overwhelmed, alone, or just need to talk, call **1-855-284-2494** to speak to a trauma-informed specialist who can help. Staff are available to listen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For mental health emergencies call the crisis hotline 24/7 at **215 685-6440 - Philadelphia mental health delegate**
- [Health and wellness tips for parents with young children during COVID-19](#)
- [City Mental Health Services Available for Residents](#)

ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

- [Free pregnancy, baby, and toddler support during COVID-19](#)
- [Where to find free, nutritious food during COVID-19](#)
- [Free meals for seniors during COVID-19](#)