

DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS ...

Are the Children Safe at Home?

SCHOOLS



Teachers, counselors, and all school staff members understand the importance of child welfare referrals. Now that the schools are closed, referrals are down. It's doubtful that abuse and neglect is down however, as parents are stressed, worried and stuck at home.

Your contact with students is different, but you can still be their hero.

We need YOU ... to check on the children.

Reporting child abuse and neglect is more important than ever.

While you're conducting online classes, ask how they're doing – emotionally and mentally. Look for signs that the child is scared, unsafe or neglected. If you haven't heard from a student in a few days, call and check in, or do a drive-by or porch visit. Reach out to students you know were at risk before COVID-19 hit our community. If there are any signs that a child or family is overwhelmed, call the hotline. You may be the only person to act.

Questions to ask the children:

- How's everyone getting along today?
- Are you worried about anything?
- What are you doing for fun?

Questions to ask the parents:

- Is everyone okay?
- Can you get everything you need?
- Do you need any help right now?

Keep protecting the children.

CONTINUE TO BE A SUPPORTIVE, CARING ADULT IN THEIR LIVES.

- Check in regularly with encouraging messages.
- Asked questions to engage children, such as "Give me one word for how you're feeling today."

LOOK FOR SIGNS OF CONCERN.

- Truancy – lack of virtual attendance or uncompleted assignments (for those with internet access).
- No contact with a family after repeated calls or messages.
- You see or hear a possible danger in the child's environment or notice a change in the child's mood or behavior.

MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT, IF A CHILD:

- Has a history of emotional, sexual, physical abuse or neglect.
- Is responsible for other children, or lives in a stressful family situation.
- Requires assistance due to physical, mental, behavioral disabilities or delays.

YOU ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE ... AND LEGALLY PROTECTED.

- School personnel are mandated reporters. If you suspect something, call the hotline.
- No administrator or supervisor may impede or inhibit any report.
- When you report in good faith, you are protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action.

If you suspect it, report it.

If you have any concerns for a child or a family, call the hotline and leave an anonymous tip. Help is available!

HOTLINE 1-800-932-0313

To connect a family in need with resources:

Lehigh County 610-782-3200

Northampton County 610-252-9060

If you suspect immediate danger, call 911.



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Visit www.UnitedWayGLV.org/GetHelp for links to food and shelter resources, baby essentials and more.

