



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Children's Trust

New Hampshire chapter of  **Prevent Child Abuse
America®**

PARENT & CAREGIVER GUIDE TO COVID-19



A Message from Dr. Melissa Merrick, *President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America*

The outbreak of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, is clearly foremost on all our minds. As a mother, I have been comforted to know that the risk to our children's physical health from the outbreak itself appears to be low. However, as a scientist, I know that the risk to our children for experiencing child abuse and neglect in times of extreme stress and uncertainty—like in anticipation of natural disasters and outbreaks such as this—is actually quite high.

School and workplace closings greatly increase stress in parents' lives, resulting from loss of income due to unpaid leave; an unexpected or irregular need for child care; and even food insecurity, when school meal programs and other resources become unavailable. Also, an unintended consequence of social distancing is separation from social support and connectedness, which science shows are protective of mental health and positive parenting and discipline strategies.

At PCA America, we work every day to ensure healthy, thriving children and families. One way we do this is by supporting smart/sound policies, like paid family leave, to help reduce stress on our parents and caregivers. We also support expanding evidence-based home visiting programs like Healthy Families America, so we can help families cope with stress and trauma and employ positive parenting practices.

Please visit the [coronavirus resource page](#) on our website for regular updates and helpful tips on how to keep you and your family safe and calm in this uncertain, stressful time. Together, we can prevent child abuse, America...because childhood lasts a lifetime.



About Melissa T. Merrick, PhD

Melissa T. Merrick, PhD, is President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, the nation's oldest nonprofit organization dedicated to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect. She has nearly 20 years of clinical, research, and leadership experience related to the etiology, course, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

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Understanding COVID-19*

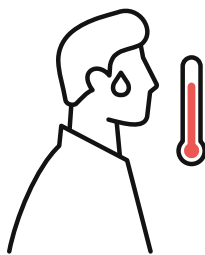
What is COVID-19?

The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a mild to severe respiratory illness that is caused by a coronavirus and is transmitted chiefly by contact with infectious material (such as respiratory droplets). COVID-19 is characterized especially by fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

What are the symptoms?

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

The following symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure**.*



FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS
OF BREATH

*This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of **MERS-CoV** viruses.

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 **get medical attention immediately**.
Emergency warning signs include*:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

How does it spread?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with COVID-19, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

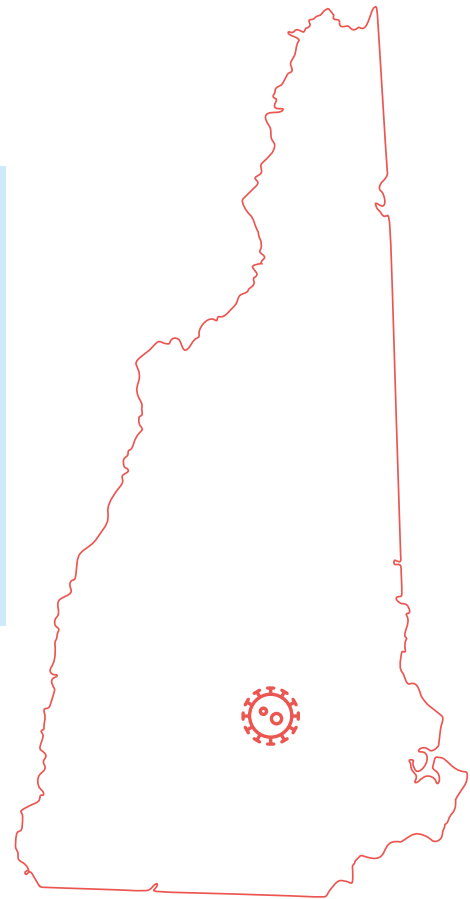
For more information, please visit the [CDC website](#).

**Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

How do I keep track of the spread in my area?

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has developed a COVID-19 webpage that tracks the number and location of New Hampshire-based incidences of the virus.

The webpage includes important notices, current situation updates, an ongoing summary report, and links to important resources. You can access the webpage [here](#) and on the lower left-hand side of every page of this resource guide.



How to Protect Yourself*

Know how it spreads

- Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. (These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.)

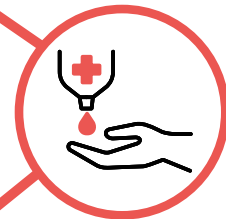
Take steps to protect yourself

CLEAN HANDS OFTEN

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.



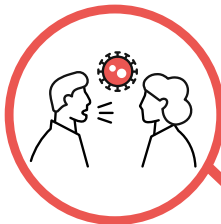
If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Maintain 6 feet of physical distance between yourself and other people to stop the spread of COVID-19 in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



3 Questions to assess your exposure risk:

- Do I have signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- In the last 14 days, have you had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or who is under investigation for COVID-19, or has a respiratory illness?
- In the last 14 days, did you travel internationally or to a U.S. community with community-based spread of COVID-19?

If the answer to any of these is **YES**, please take extra precaution.

Take steps to protect others



COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. [Learn what to do if you are sick.](#)



WEAR A FACEMASK IF YOU ARE SICK

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. [Learn what to do if you are sick.](#)
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers of sick individuals.



CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- **Clean AND disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

Options include:

- **Diluting your household bleach**--to make a bleach solution, mix: 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water, OR 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

- **Alcohol solutions**--Ensure solution has at least 70% alcohol.
- **Other common EPA-registered household disinfectants**--Products with [EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims](#) are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

For more information, please visit the [CDC website](#).

*Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For NH COVID-19 updates, visit:

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19>

What to Expect*

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, local officials may require the public to take measures to limit and control the spread of the disease. The government has the right to enforce federal and state laws related to public health if people within the country get sick with highly contagious diseases that have the potential to develop into outbreaks or pandemics.

Please note that while recommendations around COVID-19 involve words and phrases like “social distancing,” “quarantine,” and “isolation,” social interaction is foundational to emotional and behavioral health. **Physical distancing** may better describe current guidelines. Maintaining 6 feet of physical distance between individuals is recommended, as is connecting with loved ones via telephone, social media platforms, and video chat.

WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Social distancing is a way to keep people from interacting closely or frequently enough to spread an infectious disease. As a result, large social events may be cancelled.

WHAT IS QUARANTINE?

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who have been exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. 14 days is recommended.

WHAT IS ISOLATION?

Isolation prevents the spread of an infectious disease by separating people who are sick from those who are not. It lasts as long as the disease is contagious.

Typical Reactions

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations such as an infectious disease outbreak that requires social distancing, quarantine, or isolation. People may feel:

- **Anxiety, worry, or fear** related to:
 - Your own health status or the health status of others.
 - Time taken off from work and the potential loss of income and job security.
 - The challenges of securing things you need, such as groceries and personal care items.
- **Concern** about being able to effectively care for children or others in your care.
- **Uncertainty or frustration** about how long you will need to remain in this situation.
- **Loneliness** associated with feeling cut off from the world and from loved ones.
- **Anger** if you think you were exposed to the disease because of others' negligence.
- **Boredom and frustration** because you may not be able to work or engage in regular activities.
- A **desire to use alcohol or drugs** to cope.
- **Symptoms of depression:** feelings of hopelessness, changes in appetite, sleeping too little or too much.
- **Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),** such as intrusive distressing memories, flashbacks (reliving the event), nightmares, changes in thoughts and mood, and being easily startled.

If you or a loved one experience any of these reactions for 2 to 4 weeks or more, contact your health care provider.

**Information from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.*

For NH COVID-19 updates, visit:

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19>

Ways to Cope Feelings of Isolation*

Feelings of loneliness and isolation affect all types and ages of people, although some, like adolescents and older adults, are more likely to be impacted than others. Suffering from loneliness is somewhat like suffering from physical pain. Additionally, loneliness can heighten the fight-or-flight response—the physiological reaction a person has when facing a threat.

Measures You Can Take:

Empathize: A recent Rance study stated ‘if you know a lonely older person, try tea and empathy.’ Oftentimes, the only people older adults talk to are mail and delivery works or customer service representatives. Clearly, there is a need for greater empathy and social connections. Empathy is something that benefits everyone. New mothers also identify low empathy in relationships as a factor contributing to loneliness.

Give Yourself Compassion: Try building more compassion not only towards others, but, also towards yourself. Self-compassion is known to enhance life-satisfaction, overall psychological and emotional well-being and mood. People who are self-compassionate may also be likely to have better social connections. The opposite of self-compassion is excessive self-criticism. Self-criticism is very common, but, harms self-esteem as well as relationships even though it may not appear to be doing so.

Exercise: Study shows that people who exercised adequately may be less likely to feel lonely as compared to others.

Interact with family/friends: Make it a point to have some meaningful conversations with loved ones/friends as often as possible. Many people nowadays end up prioritizing other activities in life at the cost of real social connections. If you do not have family members around and are having difficulty initiating or maintaining friendships, seek professional help from a psychotherapist. This can unearth what’s causing or perpetuating this difficulty, and will help you find specific ways to overcome it. Therapy can help you develop a better relationship with yourself which itself can reduce loneliness and in turn, can enhance other relationships. Even one good relationship can make a marked difference.

Carve Time for Yourself: Sometimes, people can get lonely if they are overworking for a prolonged period of time, or have piled up more activities than they can handle. People may end up feeling like they are just trying to catch up. This can leave little time to build and maintain meaningful social relationships. If you are at ease and not hurried, you may be more likely to want to talk to others and may be more likely to be able to develop meaningful social connections. Start with baby steps- attempts to de-clutter can go a long way if you have too much on your plate.

**Information from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.*

Ways to Cope Managing Stress*

Even if your family is prepared, an outbreak can be very stressful. To help your family cope with this stress, following these recommendations can help:

Information & Communication

- Keep updated about what is happening with the outbreak and additional recommendations by getting information from credible media outlets, local public health authorities, and updates from public health websites (e.g., NH.gov, CDC.gov).
- Seek support and continued connections from friends and family by talking to them on the telephone, texting, or communicating through email or social media. Schools may have additional ways to stay in contact with educators and classmates.
- Although you need to stay informed, minimize exposure to media outlets or social media that might promote fear or panic. Be particularly aware of (and limit) how much media coverage or social media time your children are exposed to about the outbreak.
- E-mail and texting may be the best ways to stay in contact with others during an outbreak, as the Internet may have the most sensational media coverage and may be spreading rumors. Check in regularly with children about what they have viewed on the Internet and clarify any misinformation.
- Focus on supporting children by encouraging questions and helping them understand the current situation.
 - Talk about their feelings and validate them.
 - Help them express their feelings through drawing or other activities.
 - Clarify misinformation or misunderstandings about how COVID-19 is spread.
 - Provide comfort and a bit of extra patience.
 - Check back in with your children on a regular basis or when the situation changes.

Scheduling & Activities

- Even if your family is isolated or quarantined, realize this will be temporary.
- Keep your family's schedule consistent when it comes to bedtimes, meals, and exercise.
- Make time to do things at home that have made you and your family feel better in other stressful situations, such as reading, watching movies, listening to music, playing games, exercising, or engaging in religious activities (prayer, participating in services on the Internet).
- Have children participate in distance learning opportunities that may be offered by their schools or other institutions/organizations.
- Recognize that feelings such as loneliness, boredom, fear of contracting disease, anxiety, stress, and panic are normal reactions to a stressful situation such as a disease outbreak.
- Help your family engage in fun and meaningful activities consistent with your values.

**Information from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.*

For NH COVID-19 updates, visit:

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19>

Ways to Cope Managing Stress*

Hygiene & Medical Care

- Find ways to encourage proper hygiene and health promoting behavior with your children (create drawings to remember family routines; sing a song for length needed to wash hands like the A-B-C or Happy Birthday song, twice). Include them in household jobs or activities so they feel a sense of accomplishment. Provide praise and encouragement for engaging in household jobs and good hygiene.
- Reassure your children that you will take them to the pediatrician and get medical care if needed. Explain, however, that not every cough or sneeze means that they or others have COVID-19.

Self-care & Coping

- Modify your daily activities to meet the current reality of the situation and focus on what you can accomplish.
- Shift expectations and priorities to focus more on what gives you meaning, purpose, or fulfillment.
- Give yourself small breaks from the stress of the situation.
- Attempt to control self-defeating statements and replace them with more helpful thoughts. Here's a helpful [checklist](#) for identifying unhealthy thoughts and coping with them.
- Remember, you are a role model for your children. How you handle this stressful situation can affect how your children manage their worries.
- If your family has experienced a serious illness or the death of a loved one, find ways to support each other, including:
 - Reach out to your friends and family, talking to them about the death of your loved one. Use telephone, email, or social media to communicate if necessary.
 - Find ways to honor the death of your loved one. Some activities may be done as a family, while additional activities may be done individually.
 - Seek religious/spiritual help or professional counseling for support. This may be available online or by telephone during an outbreak.

To reach the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#), call 1-800-985-5990 for a 24/7 national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

*Information from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

Ways to Cope Financial Stress*

Although any stress can take a toll on your health, stress related to financial issue can lead to:

- **Poor physical health:** Ongoing stress about money has been linked to migraines, heart disease, diabetes, sleep problems, and more. Left untreated, these conditions can lead to life-threatening illnesses, which can plunge you even further into debt.
- **Delayed healthcare:** With less money in the budget, people who are already under financial stress tend to cut corners in areas they shouldn't, like healthcare. According to Gallup's annual Health and Healthcare poll, 29% of American adults held off seeking medical care in 2018 because of cost. Though this tactic may seem like a good way to keep costs down, delaying medical care can actually lead to worse health outcomes and higher costs, both of which can lead to more stress.
- **Poor mental health:** In many instances, the link between mental and financial health is cyclical—poor financial health can lead to poor mental health, which leads to increasingly poor financial health, and so on. For years, studies have shown that people in debt have higher rates of mental health issues like depression and anxiety than those who are debt-free.
- **Unhealthy coping behaviors:** Financial stress can cause you to engage in a variety of unhealthy behaviors, from overeating to alcohol and drug misuse. According to an APA survey published in 2014, 33% of Americans reported eating unhealthy foods or eating too much to deal with stress.

Coping With Financial Stress

Learning to effectively manage your financial situation can help you feel more in control, reduce your stress, and build a more secure future. Try some of the following tips to get started:

- **Talk to you lender now.** Regulators like the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation have encouraged banks and financial institutions to work with customers to defer payments, make smaller payments or change the due date.
- **Arrange for a break on housing payments.** Mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac suspended foreclosures, ordered lenders to allow homeowners flexibility in payments, including offering them a break for up to a year, and suspended late charges and penalties. As part of the package, they also put a stay on reporting late payments to credit bureaus by borrowers who are experiencing hardships.
- **Use the check from the government.** Current proposals in congress provide Americans a direct payment as a means of assistance is taking shape. The "recovery rebates" may be up to \$1,200 for individuals and \$2,400 for couples earning below a certain income threshold.
- **De-clutter your budget.** Since life is rarely constant, regular budget checkups are essential to improving your financial health. Take control of your finances by setting aside some time to de-clutter all of the money coming in and out of your bank account. The more control you have, the less stress you will feel.
- **Don't forget general stress management.** As you work on improving your financial situation, you can reduce stress by practicing stress-reducing techniques.

*Information from Verywell Mind.

For NH COVID-19 updates, visit:

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19>

Ways to Cope Financial Stress

With regards to financial strain caused by COVID-19, **Governor Sununu** has announced the following:

Seeing what the lack of an appropriate response has resulted in around the world requires that we make some difficult decisions here in New Hampshire to ensure we stem the tide of this worldwide pandemic within our own communities. We are taking steps to help Granite Staters, ensuring they have the support and services for themselves, their families, and their businesses throughout this crisis.

EMERGENCY ORDER #3: All providers of electric, gas, water, telephone, cable, VOIP, internet service, and deliverable fuel services will be prohibited from disconnecting or discontinuing service for non-payments for the duration of the State of Emergency.

EMERGENCY ORDER #4: Landlords will not be allowed to start eviction proceedings for those unable to pay due to their financial situations. To do so would be against the law. All judicial and non-judicial foreclosure actions will also be prohibited during the state of emergency.

EMERGENCY ORDER #5: Individuals who are unable to work or who have reduced hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have immediate access to unemployment benefits. Anyone in the following situations will now be eligible for state unemployment:

- If your employer temporarily closes due to COVID-19.
- Individuals that need to self-quarantine or are directed to quarantine at the instruction of a health care provider, employer or government official.
- Individuals that need to care for a family member that has COVID-19 or is under quarantine
- Individuals that need to care for a dependent because of school closures, child care facility closures or other similar types of care programs.
- Self-employed individuals that are temporarily unable to operate their business because of any of the above listed situations will also be eligible.

For further announcements from the Governor, [click here](#).

To reach the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#), call 1-800-985-5990 for a 24/7 national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

Ways to Cope Grief Related Anxiety*

Learn a little about how anxiety works. Anxiety is the mind's response to a fearful situation, setting off our fear-responders, putting you on alert and heightening physical sensations. Reminding yourself that this is a normal reaction and that it is our body's way of managing stress can help keep you calm.

Check in with your grief. One reason we develop anxiety is due to unprocessed grief. Take some time to check in with yourself about your grief process. Are there emotions or memories that you are avoiding out of fear or pain? If so, open yourself up to doing some work in these areas (on your own or with the support of a professional) and doing so will be sure to ease the pressure on your accompanying anxiety.

Make amends. One of the reasons we get stuck in our grief and anxiety is because there is something left unsaid, or something we feel guilty about. Finding ways to ease your guilt and even make amends with your loved ones can help with that pervasive sense of unease that comes with anxiety. It's never too late.

Embrace resilience. Find ways to begin moving forward and healing. Sometimes we resist doing this because it feels like if we choose to move forward then it means we are letting go of our loved ones. We will never get over the loss of a loved one but we can find ways to build a meaningful life in their absence.

Write your way through. There is serious power in writing through your grief. Writing helps us explore our own process, release tension, and connect with others. Put a pen to paper to quell some of that anxiety.

Understand how your brain works. Cognitive behavioral therapy is an intrinsic part of getting a handle on grief-related anxiety. Understanding how our thoughts work, and learning new methods to quell pervasive, repetitive and catastrophic thoughts is key to managing your anxiety.

The power of meditation. Meditation may sound like a soft approach, but it's one of the more surefire ways to combat anxiety. Freeing yourself from pervasive thoughts and immersing yourself in the present moment can work wonders on the anxious mind.

Explore your connection to your loved ones. This one is integral to healthy grieving and helps quash anxiety in return. Finding ways to develop an internal or spiritual relationship with your loved ones will serve to bring you a greater sense of peace and compassion for your experience.

Exercise. Research shows aerobic exercise is especially helpful. A simple bike ride, dance class, or even a brisk walk can be a powerful tool for those suffering from anxiety.

Don't go it alone. Grieving is lonely business, but it doesn't have to be. One of the reasons we get so anxious is because we don't know how we're supposed to do this. Reach out and find some support, either in an online grief group, one-on-one tele-therapy or call a friend who understands.

**Information from Modern Loss.*

To reach the [Disaster Distress Helpline](https://www.dhs.gov/disaster-distress-helpline), call 1-800-985-5990 for a 24/7 national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

Activity Guide

MON

ROCK PAINTING CHALLENGE

Collect rocks outside from your yard or your neighborhood. Paint and decorate them with your children and write a word of hope on each one. Next time your family goes for a walk, you can distribute them outside in your community!

Be sure to take a picture of your rocks and post it to social media! You can use the hashtag #NHhoperocks and tag NH Children's Trust!

TUE

HOME THEATER

Watch a family-friendly movie with your children and then act out the plot in your home using props and costumes! Discuss the challenges and benefits of play-acting the movie vs. watching it on the television.

Take a picture or short film of your play-acting and post it to social media! You can use the hashtag #NHhometheater and tag NH Children's Trust! Use the comments section to discuss the challenges and benefits your children identified.

WED

VIDEO CHAT PLAYDATE

It's important to stay connected with friends and family now more than ever! Set up a video-chat playdate for your child with a friend or a family member to take the distance out of social distancing!

Learn how to download and use Skype, a popular video chat platform, [HERE](#).

THU

BAKING WITH NUMBERS

We know schooling from home can be frustrating, so what better way to introduce your child to numbers and fractions than by baking a sweet treat?! Pick a simple recipe, such as these [cupcakes](#) or [chocolate chip cookies](#), and work through the fractions using teaspoons, tablespoons, or cup measurers!

Capture your treat and post it to social media! Use the hashtag #NHbakebynumbers and tag NH Children's Trust.

FRI

OUTDOOR ALPHABET

Getting some fresh air and exercise during the day can help boost your mood and reduce stress. Make it more fun for your kids by playing a game! Try to identify an object outside corresponding with every letter of the alphabet!

You can take a picture of your kids outside or of your favorite object and post it to social media using the hashtag #NHoutdoorABCs, and be sure to tag NH Children's Trust!

SAT

SINK OR FLOAT

Saturday is science day! Have your kids collect small objects outside or around the house, and then fill a large bowl with water and have your children predict which objects will sink and which ones will float.

Afterwards, ask why they thought each object sank or float, and which result surprised them the most and why. Can they figure out why each object behaved the way it did?

SUN

SUPERHERO SUNDAYS

Encourage your children to use their imagination and creativity to create their own superhero masks! Have them choose their names and powers and discuss why they made those choices and what they would use their powers for.

Don't forget to take a picture and post it to social media! You can use the hashtag #NHsuperheroSundays and tag NH Children's Trust.

*Strengthening Families*TM & the Five Protective Factors*

Strengthening Families™ is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The five key protective factors (listed below) are attributes that serve as buffers, helping parents find resources, support, or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress.

PARENTAL RESILIENCE:

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity and trauma.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS:

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental and spiritual support.

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development.

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED:

Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN:

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions and establish and maintain relationships.

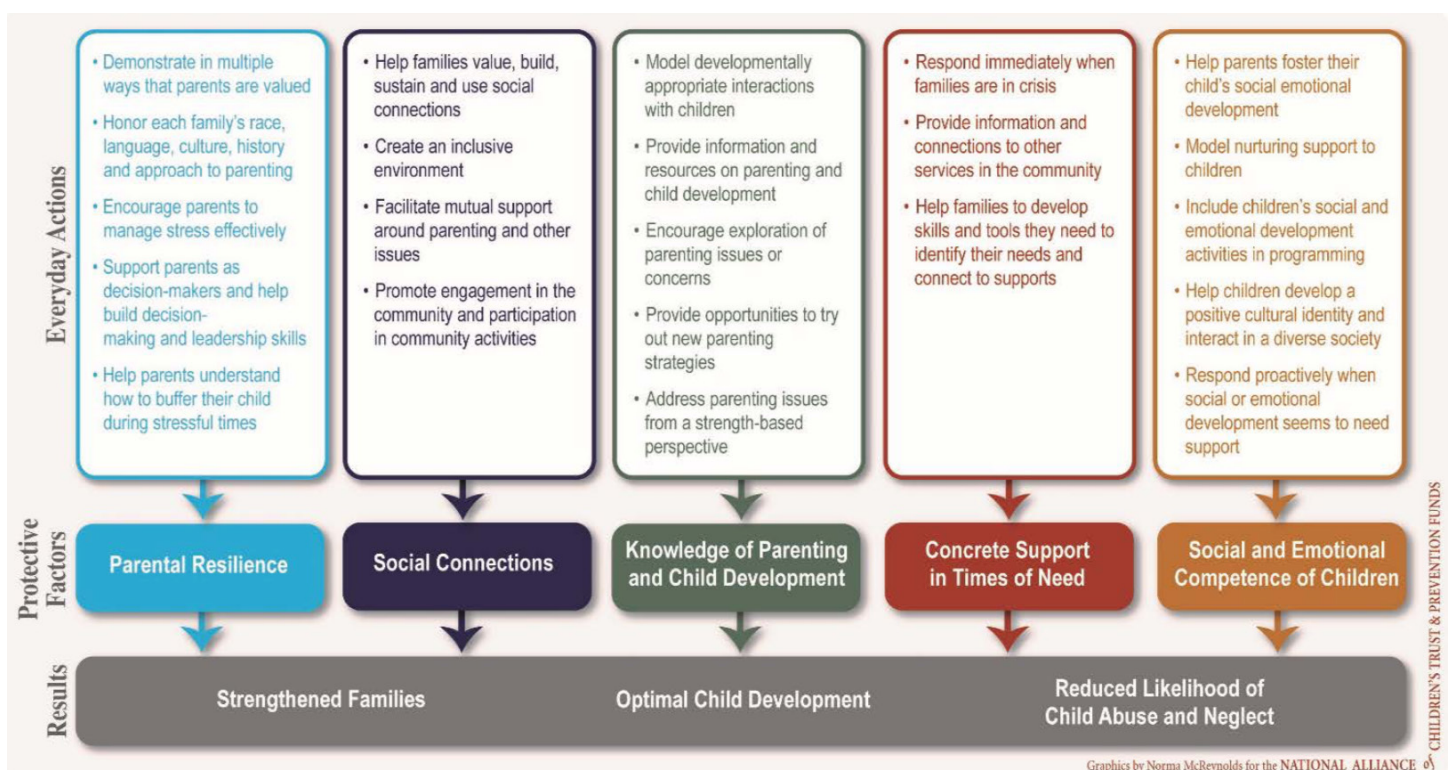


Strengthening Families™

At its heart, **Strengthening Families™** is about how families are supported to build key protective factors that enable children to thrive. The five protective factors at the foundation of Strengthening Families also offer a framework for changes at the systems, policy and practice level—locally, statewide and nationally.

The table below, from the National Alliance of Children's Trust & Prevention Funds, illustrates everyday actions parents and providers can use to foster protective factors in families.

EVERYDAY ACTIONS THAT HELP BUILD PROTECTIVE FACTORS



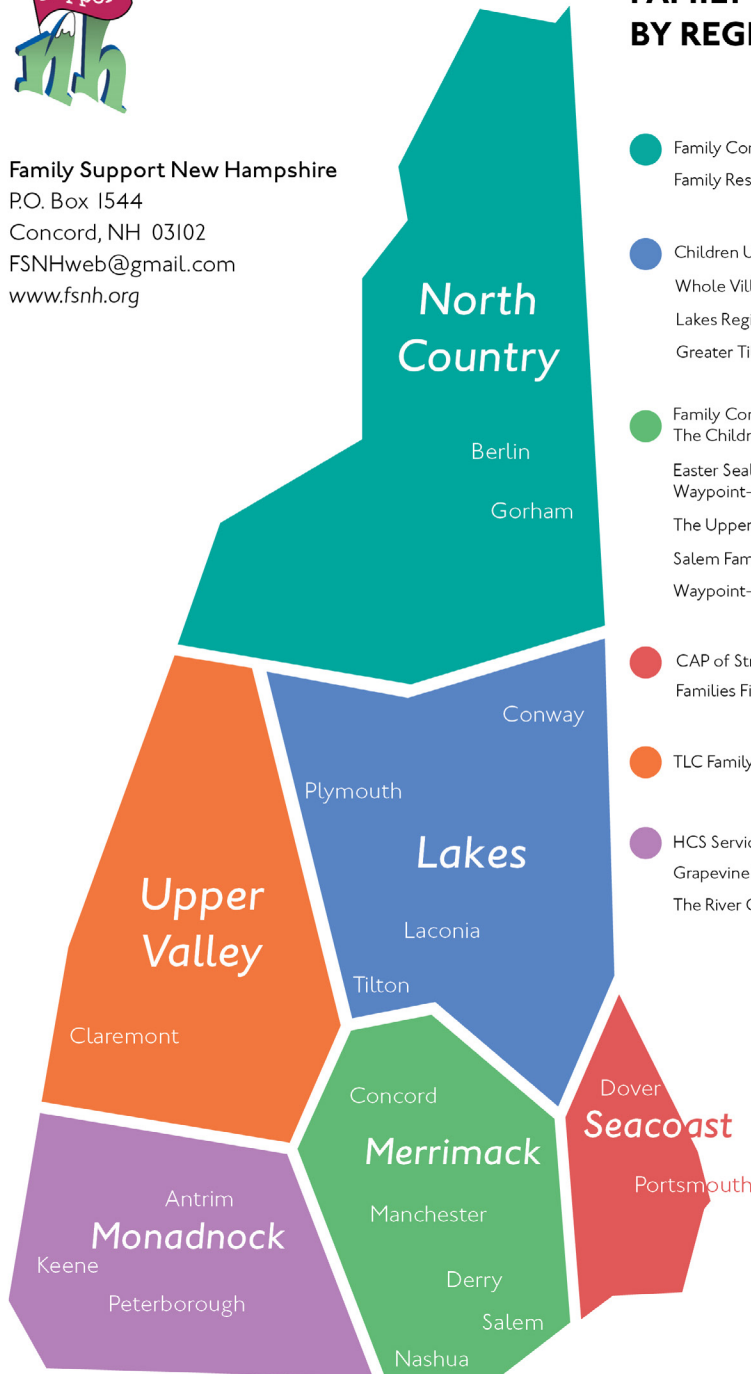
For more information on **Strengthening Families™**, click [HERE](#).

*Information from the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

New Hampshire Family Resource Centers



Family Support New Hampshire
 P.O. Box 1544
 Concord, NH 03102
 FSNHweb@gmail.com
 www.fsnh.org



NEW HAMPSHIRE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS BY REGION

- Family Connections Center—**Berlin**
 Family Resource Center—**Gorham**
- Children Unlimited Inc.—**Conway**
 Whole Village Family Resource Center—**Plymouth**
 Lakes Region Community Services—**Laconia**
 Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center—**Tilton**
- Family Connections Center—**Concord**
 The Children's Place and Parent Education Center—**Concord**
 Easter Seals Child Development and FRC—**Manchester**
 Waypoint—**Manchester**
 The Upper Room—**Derry**
 Salem Family Resources - Success by Six—**Salem**
 Waypoint—**Nashua**
- CAP of Strafford County—**Dover**
 Families First—**Portsmouth**
- TLC Family Resource Center—**Claremont**
- HCS Services—**Keene**
 Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center—**Antrim**
 The River Center—**Peterborough**

New Hampshire Children's Trust
 (603) 224-1279
 info@nhchildrenstrust.org
 www.nhchildrenstrust.org



New Hampshire Family Resource Centers



NEW HAMPSHIRE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS BY REGION

New Hampshire Children's Trust
 (603) 224-1279
 info@nhchildrenstrust.org
 www.nhchildrenstrust.org
 10 Ferry Street, Suite 307, Concord, NH 03301

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are open to the public and seek to strengthen families by promoting health, wellbeing, self-sufficiency and positive parenting through support and education. Each center is uniquely positioned to serve its community, offering a range programs and services including but not limited to parenting classes, parent-child groups, early learning centers, play groups, kinship navigation, assistance with tax preparation, information and referral, after school assistance and other programs to meet specific community needs.

To locate your nearby Family Resource Center (FRC), find the FRC in or nearest your town or county.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS CENTER, BERLIN
 138 East Milan Road
Berlin, NH 03570
 (603) 752-0397
www.nh.gov/nhdcc/fcc

THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
 123 Main St.
Gorham, NH 03581
 (603) 466-5190
www.frc123.org

CHILDREN UNLIMITED INC.
 182 Main St.
Conway, NH 03818
 (603) 447-6356
www.childrenunlimitedinc.org

**WHOLE VILLAGE
 FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**
 258 Highland St.
Plymouth, NH 03264
 (603) 536-3720
www.graniteuw.org/our-work/granite-united-way-initiatives/whole-village

LAKES REGION COMMUNITY SERVICES
 719 North Main St.
Laconia, NH 03246
 (603) 524-8811
<https://www.lrcs.org>

**GREATER TILTON AREA
 FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**
 5 Prospect St.
Tilton, NH 03276
 (603) 286-4255
www.gtfrcc.org

**COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
 OF STRAFFORD COUNTY**
 PO Box 160
Dover, NH 03821
 (603) 435-2500
www.straffordcap.org

**FAMILIES FIRST HEALTH
 AND SUPPORT CENTER**
 100 Campus Drive Suite 12
Portsmouth, NH 03801
 (603) 422-8209
www.familiesfirstseacoast.org

FAMILY CONNECTIONS CENTER, CONCORD
 PO Box 14
Concord, NH 03802
 (603) 271-2255
www.nh.gov/nhdcc/fcc

EASTER SEALS CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FRC
 435 S. Main St.
Manchester, NH 03102
 (603) 666-5982
www.easterseals.com/nh/our-programs/child-development-centers

**THE UPPER ROOM - A FAMILY
 RESOURCE CENTER**
 36 Tsienneto Rd.
Derry, NH 03038
 (603) 427-8477
www.urteachers.org

**SALEM FAMILY RESOURCES -
 SUCCESS BY 6**
 24 School St.
Salem, NH 03079
 (603) 898-5493
www.salemfamilyresources.org

**WAYPOINT: A FAMILY AND
 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**
 Locations:
 113 West Pearl Street
Nashua, NH 03060
 (603) 518-4211

464 Chestnut Street
Manchester, NH 03105
 (603) 518-4292

103 N State Street
Concord, NH 03301
 (603) 518-4210
www.waypointnh.org

TLC FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
 109 Pleasant St.
Claremont, NH 03743
 (603) 542-1848
www.tlcfamilyrc.org

HEALTHY START AT HCS
 312 Marlboro Street
Keene, NH 03431
 (603) 352-2253
www.hcsservices.org/healthy-starts

**THE GRAPEVINE FAMILY AND
 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**
 4 Aiken St.
Antrim, NH 03440
 (603) 588-2620
www.grapevinenh.org

**THE RIVER CENTER FAMILY AND
 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**
 4 Vose Farm Rd. Suite 115
Peterborough, NH 03458
 (603) 924-6800
www.rivercenter.us

Additional Resources

For NH CoVID-19 updates: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19>

Center for Disease Control (CDC): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has up to date, accurate information and recommendations about COVID-19:

- General Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 and Children: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/children.html>
- Older Adults and Medical Conditions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>
- CDC Guidance for Workplace, School, and Home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

World Health Organization (WHO): Useful information can be accessed at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

County Health Department: Contact your state's <https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory> to learn more about your state's response and recommendations.

Kinship Navigators and Other Grandfamilies Support Programs: For information specifically to help grandfamilies, contact your local kinship navigator or other grandfamilies support programs. Visit www.grandfamilies.org for a list of local programs in your state.

Area Agency on Aging: Area Agency on Aging: For information to help older caregivers contact your area agency on aging. You can find them through the eldercare locator at 1-800-677-1116 or visit eldercare.acl.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics has more information on children and Coronavirus at <https://www.healthychildren.org>

Child Mind: Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus: <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

Just for Kids, A Comic Exploring the new Coronavirus from National Public Radio: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus%C2%A0>

Answering Your Child's Questions During the Coronavirus from ZERO TO THREE: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3265-answering-your-young-child-s-questions-about-coronavirus>

Internet for Students: This article highlights internet options for accessing the internet for students on a low income: <https://www.reviews.com/blog/internet-options-for-students-on-low-income/>

Additional Resources

Managing Anxiety and Self-care:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/well/family/coronavirus-teenagers-anxiety.html>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/13/the-family-lockdown-guide-how-to-emotionally-prepare-for-coronavirus-quarantine>
- <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3210-tips-for-families-coronavirus>

Resources and Activities for Children at Home

- <https://extension.wsu.edu/king/4-h/learning-links-4-h-and-more/>
- <https://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/>
- Caribu is offering 60 days free access

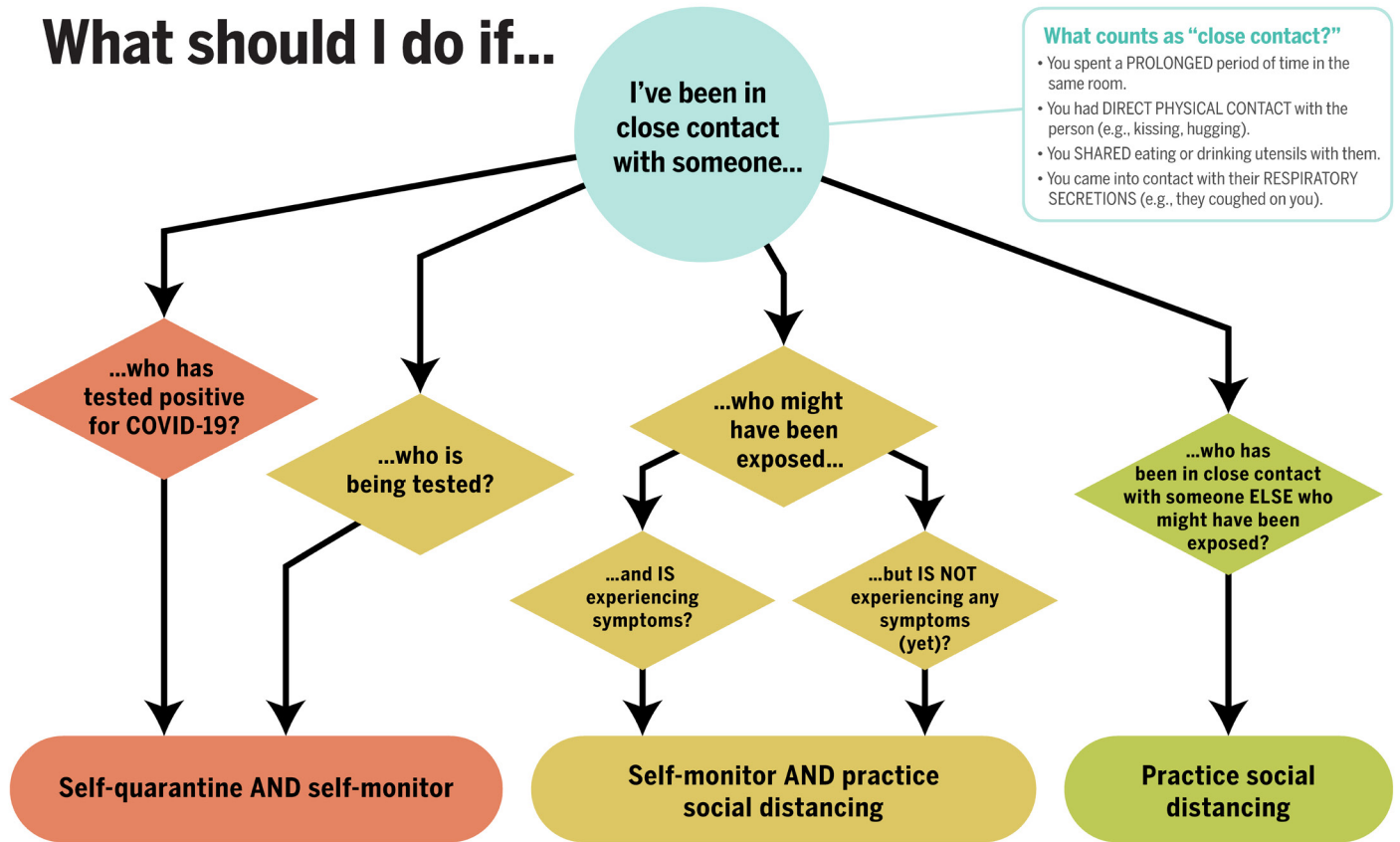
Staying Connected: For more ideas check out Generations United's blog <https://buff.ly/3aJN2z8>

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 for a 24/7 national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotion distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

NH Servicelink: <https://www.servicelink.nh.gov/>

211: <http://www.211nh.org>

What should I do if...



How do I...

...self-quarantine?

STAY HOME for 14 days.
AVOID CONTACT with other people.
DON'T SHARE household items.

...self-monitor?

BE ALERT for symptoms of COVID-19, especially a dry cough or shortness of breath.
TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE every morning and night, and write it down.
CALL your doctor if you have trouble breathing or a fever (temperature of 100.4°F or 38°C).
DON'T seek medical treatment without calling first!

...practice social distancing?

STAY HOME as much as possible.
DON'T physically get close to people; try to stay at least 6 feet away.
DON'T hug or shake hands.
AVOID groups of people and frequently touched surfaces.

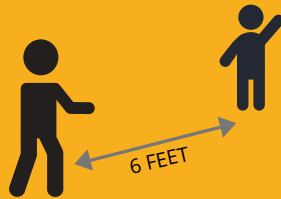
And practice great hygiene!

WASH your hands frequently • **AVOID TOUCHING** your face • **WIPE DOWN** frequently touched surfaces

START SAVING LIVES TODAY!

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Protect yourself, your family and your community!



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Stay at least 6 feet away from others when you're out in public, especially if someone seems sick, or is coughing and sneezing!

AVOID TOUCH WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC

That means no hugs, handshakes or high-fives! It's also a good idea to use payment methods that avoid pinpads or touch screens.



CONSIDER RESCHEDULING PARTIES AND PLAYDATES

A child's birthday party may be hard to say no to, but consider how many people will attend and the potential for a virus to spread.

TELECOMMUTE

Changing your normal routine in order to work from home might be a transition, but keeping yourself and your loved ones healthy is worth it!



SUPPORT REMOTE LEARNING

Although it can be tough on parents, keeping our kids at home can dramatically reduce the spread of disease to our most vulnerable residents, such as grandparents and other older family members!

POSTPONE OR CANCEL SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Bars, restaurants and movie theaters are all places where people congregate in high numbers and sit close together. Ask yourself if the benefits outweigh the potential risk.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.NH.GOV/COVID19 OR DIAL 2-1-1
1-866-444-4211 / TTY: 603-634-3388