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# **Pennsylvania's Early Childhood Health and Safety Systems Supports**



# Parent, Family and Community Engagement: Teaming Up to be Healthy and Safe

# Welcome!

This Webinar is 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series of 5

- Today's Topic: **Parent, Family and Community Engagement: Teaming Up to be Healthy and Safe**
- Each live Webinar is followed the next day by a 1.5 hour open space session for questions, reflections and sharing

Questions may be submitted anytime to this email:  
[hssco@pakeys.org](mailto:hssco@pakeys.org)



# Housekeeping

- Today's live webinar is a presentation only format and all participants are muted.
- Please turn off your video.
- **Participants may type questions into the Chat Box during the presentation; we will do our best to respond, if time permits.**
- Live Webinar presentations are followed the next day by a 90-minute open space session for questions, reflections and sharing.
- **Questions which are not addressed today will be addressed, if possible, during the open space session tomorrow.**



# Co-Facilitator

- Amy Requa, MSN, CRNP (Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner)
- Senior Health Manager at the Pennsylvania Key
  - In support of Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development & Early Learning



# Co-Facilitator

Laura Johns, Ph.D.

Managing Partner, Propulsion Squared

# Goal for Today's Webinar

To provide **support teams** with information and resources for assisting providers with tailored communication and family engagement strategies to support the implementation of health and safety plans, policies and procedures.

## **Child Support Teams:**

- Bureau of Certification Supervisors/Representatives
- Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Team
- ELRC Quality Coaches
- Program Quality Assessment Team
- Preschool Program (PK) Specialists
- Early Intervention (EI) Advisors
- Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) Consultants
- EITA Family Support (FS) Consultants
- ECELS TA Staff





# Health and Safety Plan

# Child Care Facility COVID 19 Health and Safety (H&S) Plan

- Each child care facility must create a COVID-19 H&S Plan which will serve as the guidelines for facility's COVID-19 child care activities.
- The COVID-19 H&S Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each facility and should be created in consultation of guidance and policy issued by OCDEL, DOH, and comply with CDC guidelines.
- Each plan should incorporate enough flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

# Elements of Plan

**Face Masks**

**Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation**

**Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols**

**Monitoring Children and Staff Health**

**Other Considerations for Children and Staff**

# Planning Considerations



PANDEMIC  
COORDINATOR  
AND TEAM



KEY STRATEGIES,  
POLICIES, AND  
PROCEDURES



PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNICATION



FAMILIES

# Health and Safety Plan Template



## Child Care Facility COVID 19 Health and Safety Plan Template

Each child care facility must create a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan which will serve as the guidelines for the facility's child care activities. As with all emergency plans, the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan developed for each child care facility is tailored to the unique needs of each facility and should be created in consultation of guidance and policy issued by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, each plan should incorporate flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. The templates provided in this toolkit can be used to document a facility's COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan, with a focus on training and communications, to ensure all stakeholders are fully informed and prepared for phased-in reopening or continuing to operate with a waiver during COVID 19. OCDEL recognizes that many child care facilities have developed and are currently implementing their plans, whereas others are in the beginning phases of developing their plans. Although plans do not need to take the form of this template, providers should ensure that all elements of this template are reflected in their plans and adjust accordingly. A child care facility's COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan should be shared with all families and posted in a conspicuous area. Child care facilities should also consider whether the adoption of a new policy or the revision of an existing policy is necessary to effectively implement the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan.

Each child care facility should continue to monitor its COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan throughout the year and update it as needed. All revisions should be shared with all families and staff and posted in a conspicuous area. Child care providers are not required to use this specific plan, but the following elements must be addressed in any plan format selected by the provider:

1. Screening procedures,
2. Child drop-off and pick-up policies,
3. Sick policies,
4. Mask policy, and
5. Cleaning/sanitation procedures.

COVID-19 Health  
and Safety Plan  
Template Writeable  
PDF

<https://files.constantcontact.com/3e3d36fe201/d998057e-8485-43b6-942a-3fd19afd9e1b.docx>



# Planning Resource

## Covid-19: Destination Reopening Playbook

July 2020

National Head Start  
Association





# Successful Family Engagement: Challenges and Opportunities

# Family Engagement Definition

Effective family engagement is *intentional, meaningful and impactful*.

Learning Communities value and support families in their role as a child's first teacher, and *leverage* the *expertise, knowledge* and *leadership* of *families and community partners* to shape the educational environment at the program, classroom, school, state and national level.

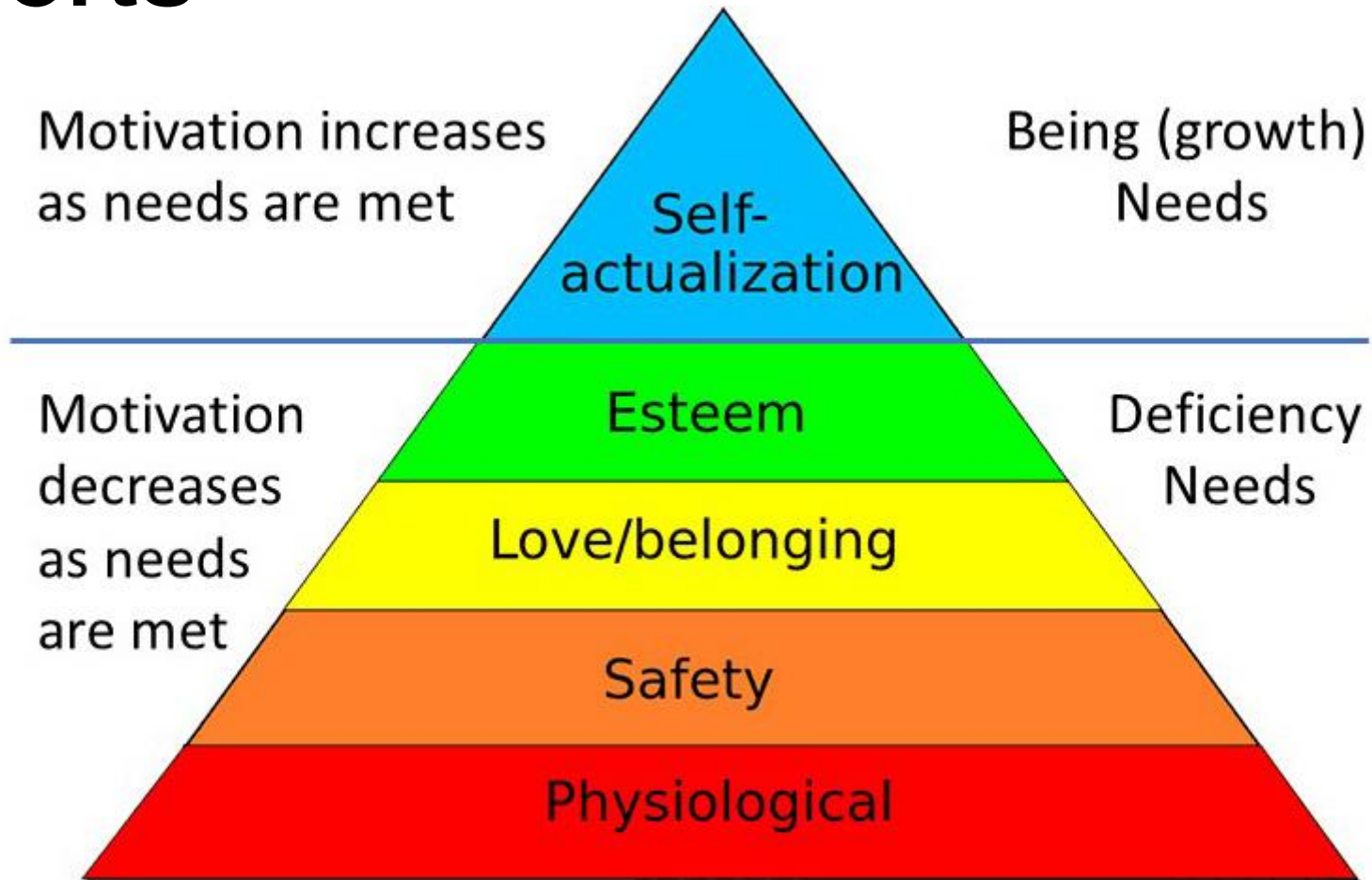
These partnerships are *strengths based, culturally responsive* and *rely on two-way communications*. They focus on the *shared goal* of positive learning and developmental outcomes for children.

- How do you see this definition as relevant during this time...and specifically as providers develop their health and safety plans?
- What does it mean to leverage the expertise, knowledge and leadership of families and their community partners now?
- What would a strengths-based, culturally responsive family engagement strategy look like now?
- Consider the "two way" communication. Families are "getting" a lot of information- but, remember that communication is two-way...for it to be impactful and meaningful families will need to opportunity to influence, provide input, feedback, respond. etc.





# Consider Maslow to Determine Supports





# Challenges

- 100% individual
- Social distancing / social isolation
- Technology
- Change and changing information
- Resource needs
- Increased risk for:
  - child abuse and neglect
  - depression
  - anxiety
  - interpersonal violence





# Opportunities

- Increased desire for connection
- Increased time/availability
- Empower families to use tools and resources readily available
- Leverage families' experience with technology to empower them as leaders and decision makers.
- Emphasize routine over schedule.
- Build on social emotional development of children and attachment between parents and children.
- Empower parents to become stronger observers of children's development and support their children's growth and learning



# Engagement Strategies

# Engagement Strategies

## TWO WAY COMMUNICATION

Frequently communicate with families, addressing learning, social, emotional and physical needs

Parent input related to Health and Safety Plan

Conducting frequent check-ins with families

Connect families with community resources

Develop and provide peer-to-peer family groups virtually – Communities of Care

Share resources with families and offer opportunities for families to share with each other to engage in interactive reading, play, and problem-solving

Provide resources to families to support learning

Virtual Parent Cafes

# Engagement Strategies

## Provide

Provide communication and resources in multiple languages



## Identify and address

Identify and address potential barriers to learning



## Offer

Offer multiple locations and times to access food and school resources, and if transportation is unavailable, provide a delivery service



## Involve

Involve families within the program in the creation of COVID-19 guidance and responses



## Ensure

Ensure school personnel are connecting with every family and, when possible, are visible at food and school resource distributions



# Utilizing Technology



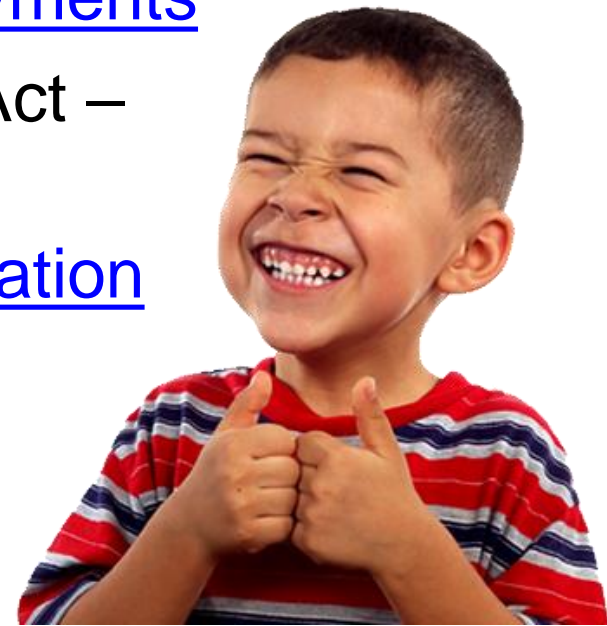
- Texting and Texting Apps (What's App)
- Phone calls, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, and other video conferencing
- Virtual social activities (FB peer support groups, online exercise classes, online games with friends)
- Surveys



# Community Resources

# Resources

- Mental health or emotional support: Support & Referral Helpline is available 24/7. Call 1-855-284-2494 (TTY: 724-631-5600)
- [Emergency Assistance Program](#)
- CARES ACT – [Economic Impact Payments](#)
- Family First Coronavirus Response Act – [Pandemic Electronic Transfer](#)
- Food Resources – [PA Nutrition Education Network](#)



# Resources

- Early Intervention Supports  
<https://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Early%20Intervention/Pages/default.aspx>
- Early Intervention Technical Assistance Portal  
<http://www.eita-pa.org/>
- Family Support Programs  
<https://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Early%20Intervention/Pages/FamilySupportPrograms.aspx>
- COMPASS: Medical Assistance, SNAP, etc.  
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES



**ELRCs**

**EI + EITA**

**Family  
Support  
Centers**

**United Way –  
[PA 211](#)  
Public  
Libraries**





# General Resources

# Family Engagement Framework

PA Family Engagement Framework

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Teachers-Administrators/Federal%20Programs/Title%20I/PA%20Family%20Engagement%20Framework.pdf>

Companion to the PA Family Engagement Framework

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Early%20Learning/Family%20Engagement%20Framework%20-%20Companion%20Guide%20for%20Families%20FINAL.pdf>

# General Resources for Children

- **BrainPOP:** [Coronavirus](#) (4-minute video, activities, and games)
- **National Public Radio:** [Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#)
- **PBS Kids:** [How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](#) (includes a list of videos, games, and activities about handwashing and staying healthy)
- **Johns Hopkins Medicine:** [Handwashing and Coronavirus Prevention for Children Infographic](#)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** Wash Your Hands: Follow these steps for proper handwashing to prevent the spread of germs. [English](#) [Spanish](#) [French](#) [Arabic](#) [Bengali](#) [Chinese](#) [Portuguese](#) [Urdu](#) [Haitian Creole](#)

# General Resources for Talking with Children

- **CDC:** [Talking with Children about the Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children](#)
- **Zero to Three:** [Tips for Families: Talking About the Coronavirus](#)
- **Child Mind Institute:** [Talking to Your Children about the Coronavirus](#) [\(en español\)](#)
- **LSU Health New Orleans:** [Supporting Young Children Isolated Due to Coronavirus](#)
- **Zero to Three:** [Five Tips to Make the Most of Video Chats](#)

# General Resources for Families

## [NFFCMH National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health](#)

- The collection of resources includes videos, toolkits, activities to use at home and more to support parents and caregivers and their children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## [COVID-19 Lactation and Infant Feeding in Emergencies \(L.I.F.E.\) Support Resources](#) for ECE professionals, including adaptation of CGBI's 10 steps to Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care (BFCC):

- 10 Steps to BFCC: [COVID-19 Considerations](#)
  - These resources provide considerations to enhance health and safety measures and continue implementation of BFCC by integrating COVID-19 guidance released by expert health authorities nationally (CDC) and globally (WHO) – as well as ECE expert groups (e.g. Child Care Aware of America).
  - [Infographics](#) for ECE professionals for expressing and storing milk at work



# New FAQ Resource Available

- The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has released the [\*\*OCDEL COVID-19 FAQ\*\*](#) which provides information for those within the child care setting relating to face coverings, COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan Template, child care employees returning from other states, and more.



# PA Key Communications

## PREVIOUS CDC GUIDANCE WEBINARS (Amy Requa):

- (5) Pre-Recorded Webinars with Slides:  
*Considerations & Implementation of CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs That Remain Open* (April-June, 2020):

**Go to the PA Key Coronavirus webpage:**

[www.pakeys.org/ece-coronavirus-resources](http://www.pakeys.org/ece-coronavirus-resources)

- **Email your questions/comments anytime to:**  
[hssco@pakeys.org](mailto:hssco@pakeys.org)

OCDEL is committed to reviewing and addressing all questions to the best of its ability

