CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)[1]: KEY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

Cyber Safety Quick Links for Protecting Youth:

Empowering Students to Become Responsible Digital Citizens and Engage Online Safely

Cyber Safety — An Overview

The onset of COVID-19 has dramatically increased the usage of digital learning formats by education agencies across the nation and shifted the learning environment to "school at home." Since students are online more, they are vulnerable to more threats. Such threats may include an increase in cyberbullying, inappropriate content, sexting, sextortion/ransomware, oversharing, and online predation. Phishing emails, text messages, and scams with COVID-19 themes are currently trending.

Report any threats to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline by contacting it at https://report.cybertip.org/ or calling 1-800-843-5678.

Cyber safety is critical and is a shared responsibility of students, parents, and school personnel. Furthermore, it helps to maintain a safe school in all settings and at all times, including school at home and school at a community- or faith-based hub providing Wi-Fi services.

This handout gives families, students, and school safety teams key practical steps and quick links to Websites offering free cyber safety resources, tools, and training. Together, communities, led by school safety teams, can enhance their cyber safety knowledge and capabilities of the whole school community.

Information for Youth

You have an important role to play in online safety — both at home and at school. For example, your online behavior can prevent a predator from accessing your personal information. Use the Websites below to play games, watch videos, and more on cyber safety. Access tips about social media sharing and online interactions with your classmates, friends, family, and others online. You can and should report online threats to a teacher, a school counselor, or another trusted adult.

Learn how to become a responsible digital citizen.

NetSmartz® | **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.** Online safety education program with age-appropriate videos and activities for children.

Be Internet Awesome | **Google.** Digital citizenship and online safety tools and resources for children.

[1] According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this novel coronavirus is named "SARS-CoV-2," while the disease it causes is named "coronavirus disease 2019" (COVID-19). (Available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html, last accessed April 9, 2020.)

STOP.THINK.CONNECT™ Student Resources | **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.** National public awareness campaign on online safety that offers materials and resources to help children learn about safe cyber behavior.

Technology Safety Online Privacy & Safety Tips | **National Network to End Domestic Violence, Safety Net Project.** Information on signing up for accounts, passwords, privacy settings and policies, social media, friends and family, and safe Web browsing.

What Kids Can Do | **StopBullying.gov.** Tips on protecting yourself from cyberbullying.

Information for Parents

You have an important role to play in your child's online safety. For example, you can prompt your child to think how he/she can change his/her social media behavior. Use the Websites below to read up on technology platforms that your child may use, cyber risks, and talking with your child about cyber safety.

Take action and create a culture of preparedness within your family.

- ✓ Talk to your child about online safety, how he/she interacts online, and your expectations of his/her behavior.
- ✓ Monitor what your child posts online, his/her offline behavior, and his/her overall well-being.
- ✓ Review security and privacy notices on Websites that your child frequents.
- ✓ Encourage your child to report online threats to a teacher, a school counselor, or another trusted adult.

Read about cyber safety and how you can empower your child to engage in safe online behavior.

Stay Safe Online At Home | **National Cyber Security Alliance.** Online safety and digital citizenship resources, such as lesson plans, classroom materials, and discussion guides.

Common Sense Media. Activities and information for families on privacy and Internet safety.

ConnectSafely Parent Guides. Information on social media platforms, apps, and services frequently used by children and teens. Topics include TikTok, Instagram, Roblox, Snapchat, Kik, mobile phones, online hate speech, and cyberbullying. The Website also features family contracts and pledges on Internet safety.

STOP.THINK.CONNECT™ Parent and Educator Resources | **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.** National public awareness campaign on online safety that offers materials and resources to help parents discuss safe cyber behavior with children.

Just for You: Parents | **Federal Trade Commission.** Information and resources on how parents can talk to kids about making safe decisions when they socialize online. This includes a Web page, Kids and Socializing Online, and a video, Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online.

Tips on Protecting Youth From Sextortion | **REMS TA Center.** Publication on things to remember regarding sextortion, behaviors of youth that may lead to sextortion, and tips for students to help prevent sextortion perpetrated by hackers.

StopBullying.gov Digital Awareness for Parents | **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.** Information on steps that parents can take to prevent cyberbullying.

Information for School Personnel

You can drive your school's online preparedness. For example, you can organize a cyber safety training opportunity for school staff, administrators, and teachers. The REMS TA Center will support you and has created fact sheets, Webinars, and tools for you to learn more on cyber safety in the school setting, including the "school at home" setting. Brush up on your cyber safety knowledge using the resources below.

Take action to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from online threats.

- ✓ Create a responsible use policy that outlines expectations for students.
- ✓ Integrate cyber safety into your emergency operations plan's Cyber Annex.
- ✓ Use filtering and blocking software to prevent students from accessing inappropriate content.
- ✓ Incorporate digital citizenship curriculum into lesson plans.
- ✓ Provide cyber safety education and training to school staff, teachers, students, and families.
- ✓ Encourage students to report online threats to a teacher, a school counselor, or another trusted adult.

Implement cyber policies and procedures to prepare for online threats to students.

Cyber Safety Considerations for K-12 Schools and School Districts | **REMS TA Center.** Fact sheet on how schools can address and prepare for online threats to students before, during, and after an incident. Topics covered include responsible use policies, filtering and blocking content, digital citizenship, education and training, and Cyber Annexes.

Incorporating Sextortion Prevention, Response, and Recovery Into School Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) | **REMS TA Center and U.S. Department of Education.** Webinar on incorporating sextortion prevention, response, and recovery into school EOPs. It is accompanied by a fact sheet on the same topic and Tips on Protecting Youth From Sextortion.

Cybersecurity Considerations for K-12 Schools and School Districts | **REMS TA Center.** Fact sheet on threats impacting networks and systems and how to prepare before, during, and after an incident. Topics covered include data breaches, denial of service, spoofing/phishing, malware/scareware, unpatched or outdated software vulnerabilities, and removable media.

Integrating Cybersecurity With Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for K-12 Schools | **REMS TA Center and U.S. Department of Education.** Webinar on the importance of cybersecurity and network protection at K-12 schools.

Cyber Security and Protecting Students and Staff Data | **REMS TA Center.** Forum on the password-protected Community of Practice for school safety stakeholders to collaborate, share, and learn from the experiences of others in the field.

Addressing Adversarial- and Human-Caused Threats That May Impact Students, Staff, and Visitors | **REMS TA Center.** Web page with more resources on cyber safety, cybersecurity, cyberbullying, sextortion, and other threats.