



The Minnesota School Safety Center (MnSSC) recognizes the difficulty faced by schools during the COVID-19 pandemic response. We know schools are doing their best to support students and families and are working diligently to not only educate but to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Schools play a critical role in identifying at risk children. With the multifaceted stressors COVID creates, the potential for harm to children has increased. Keeping students and staff safe requires a multi-tiered support.

To assist educators facing difficult situations while playing their part in the ongoing roll of educating Minnesota's youth, the MnSSC has compiled a list of state and national resources to assist in prevention, support, and reporting of child safety issues.

### Abuse/Maltreatment

- [Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline](#) 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453), is dedicated to the prevention and intervention of child abuse and neglect. The hotline is staffed 24/7 with professional crisis counselors who, through interpreters, can provide assistance in over 170 languages. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. Online chat is available at [childhelpline.org](http://childhelpline.org)
- [Loveisrespect](#) is a non-profit focusing on engaging, educating and empowering young people to prevent and end abusive relationships.
- The [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) (1-800-799-7233) provides resources for individuals in unsafe domestic situations or others trying to help those in unsafe situations.

### Behavior Threat Assessment and Management

- [The National Association of School Psychologists](#) designed a document to assist schools with [behavior threat assessment and management \(BTAM\)](#) decisions in a virtual environment.

### Human Trafficking/Exploitation

- If you or someone you know is in immediate danger of being trafficked, **call 911**.
- To report a suspected trafficking situation, use the [BCA Tip Form](#), call the BCA at 1-877-996-6222 or email [bca.tips@state.mn.us](mailto:bca.tips@state.mn.us)
- The [Office of MN Attorney General](#) provides information about sex trafficking and what to do if you come in contact with adult or child that is being trafficked.
- MN Department of Health's [Safe Harbor](#) outreach materials aim to build awareness of the Safe Harbor Program and motivate youth to reach out for help, when ready. Those who are in close contact with sexually exploited youth and at-risk youth can use the outreach materials to create awareness of the issue and the Safe Harbor Program.



- The [Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force](#) is comprised of leading experts and trainers in the state.
- The [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) offers extensive information and resources pertaining to child exploitation and missing children

## Online Safety

- Technology and the internet have become indispensable educational tools. However, educators know that our digital world is filled with risks and dangers. [The Readiness and Response Center](#) is dedicated to helping you prepare for technology-related incidents in your school, respond quickly and appropriately, when they happen, and create a safer technology environment for your students. Use these resources to learn about and get ready for a technology related incident. Use the interactive [response flow chart](#), [incident investigation tool](#) and [learning modules](#) to prepare for an incident before it occurs.
- [Webinar from National Criminal Justice Training Program](#):
  - Explain increase or decrease in child abuse hotline, suicide hotline, and domestic violence reporting
  - Describe unique online dangers for youth due to COVID-19 restrictions
  - Describe child exploitation warning signs
  - Define sexting and sextortion
  - Summarize technology safety messages and resources
- [Internet Crimes against Children Task Force Program](#) offers a variety of tools for teaching how to safely use the internet.
- The [Cyberbullying Research Center](#) has resources to create a safe and positive virtual environment during online learning, social isolation and prevent cyberbullying.
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) has created an online safety [toolkit](#).
- [Cyber Tip Line](#) 24-Hour Hotline 1-800-843-5678

## Suicide

- [The National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\)](#) has created resources to [prepare](#) for and [conduct](#) a School Suicide Intervention designed to complement the guidance offered in [Comprehensive School Suicide Prevention in a Time of Distance Learning](#)
- NASP also has a document for parents and caregivers, focused on preparing to respond to children who have thoughts of ending their lives. [Suicide thinking and threats handout for home](#). (NASP)
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources and best practices for professionals.
- The [Center for Disease Control](#) has numerous resources to support youth and young adults including finding mental health providers, stress management resources and information about anxiety and depression in children.



## Social and Emotional Support

- The Minnesota Department of Human Services provides resources for people during [COVID 19](#).
- The Minnesota Department of Education [resource page](#) that relates to work that supports students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Mental Health First Aid](#) provides resources to support students and families as they navigate COVID 19.
- LGBTQ youth may be particularly vulnerable to the negative mental health impacts associated with COVID 19. [The Trevor Project](#) provides resources for LGBTQ youth.
- The [National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota](#) has links to numerous resources including coping with stress, culturally responsive mental health resources, along with a Q & A sheet for families on Minnesota Safe Learning Plan.
- These [Tier 1](#) and [Tier 2](#) handouts from the National Association of School Psychologists provide considerations in meeting the social–emotional and behavioral needs of students reentering school.
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network provides trauma-informed school strategies in response to COVID-19. This [fact sheet](#) offers information on the physical and emotional well-being of staff, creating a trauma-informed learning environment, identifying and assessing traumatic stress, addressing and treating traumatic stress, trauma education and awareness, partnerships with students and families, cultural responsiveness, emergency management and crisis response, and school discipline policies and practices. [Screening and assessment tools](#) are also provided.

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Find this document, along with additional resources, on the MnSSC website at [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov)

[The Minnesota School Safety Center](#) (MnSSC) cares about the safety of Minnesota schools. The MnSSC provides training and resources to schools to help them prepare, respond, mitigate and recover from all hazard emergencies.