



Health & Safety Regional Task Force

Welcome

***Early Learning Resource Center
Region 17***

***Health & Safety Regional Task Force
March 3, 2021***



In partnership with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Serving Montgomery County
P.O. Box 311 | 1430 DeKalb St. | Norristown, PA 19404 | (610) 278-3707 | montcopa.org/elrc

What is the Health & Safety Regional Task Force?

ELRC Region 17 acts as a connection among support systems and between support systems. We have created a Regional Health and Safety Task Force which brings together professionals in a regional, collaborative effort. The Task Force provides coordinated, consistent health and safety related supports to ECE providers. We work together to identify needs, maximize resources, and leverage local and statewide strengths to address needs and improve services.

The Regional Health and Safety Task Force is comprised of ELRC Quality Coaches, Program Quality Assessors, Preschool Program Specialists, EI/EITA Consultants, Certification Representatives, and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultants. ELRC 17 has created a Task Force informed by an assessment of the needs of providers in the region. The individual expertise and strengths of each task force member guides the work and the allocation of effort. Now more than ever, we need to work together to ensure that health and safety is at the forefront of early childhood education.

Objectives of the Health & Safety Regional Task Force should include:

- Meet regularly to discuss activities, requests, findings, challenges, and needs
- Identify areas of expertise and create a phone/contact list
- Determine regional needs, approaches to meeting the needs, and the system to support programs within the region
- Set up systems for communication
- Create resource connections for programs without duplicating services
- Share findings with their ELRC Local Leadership Councils on a regular basis
- Report recent work and developments to the Pennsylvania Key Senior Health Manager as requested

Key commitment statements for Task Force members:

- Our work is relationship-based with the goal of supporting cross-sector partnerships and collaborative responsiveness to health and safety concerns.
- We acknowledge that conversations and information shared are to be privileged and confidential.
- We work collaboratively to support regional dialogue, sharing resources and supporting the implementation of best practices around health & safety in ECE environments.
- Our commitment to best practice extends to engaging Certification Representatives when any program is observed to be out of compliance or expresses a need for additional clarification about Pennsylvania child care regulations and/or implementation of regulatory guidance.
- We will continually review Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and government Guidance on best practice and Pennsylvania regulatory compliance based on the evolving nature of the pandemic and emerging evidence.

ELRC agencies will ensure that their Health & Safety Regional Task Force have developed long term goals to guide the team's work even after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Examples of long-term goals for the Regional Task Force:

- Keeping the systems intact which are being created by this effort
- Maintaining these coordinated efforts for the future
- Creating a multidisciplinary group
- Creating sustainable community resources to support community well-being

Presentation: Montgomery County, Office of Public Health
Janet Panning, Interim Administrator
Elizabeth M. Van Aulen, COVID-19 Field Supervisor
Monica Giacomucci, Communicable Field Supervisor

Updates on COVID-19 vaccine
Phases for vaccination (priority groups)
Current testing sites: Hours of operation, Procedure for scheduling a test
Statistics (positivity rates, number of people tested, etc.)
Other information relevant to early childhood education field

Contacting Montgomery County, Office of Public Health

Phone: (610) 278-6211

Call will go directly to voicemail

Email: MCSchoolsCovid19@montcopa.org

This email account was set up for school districts but should also be used for child care programs in Montgomery County

Website for additional info: www.montcopa.org/COVID-19

Email for general questions: COVID19@montcopa.org

Other COVID-19 Related News: More details to follow!

COVID Vaccination plan for Educators/Child Care Employees

The governor will announce today his plan for providing vaccination opportunities to PA educators and individuals working directly with young children in child care. You may have already read some of the news detailing President Biden's commitment to addressing this need. The Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Department of Health and OCDEL are working collaboratively on planning and implementation of this initiative.

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-and-covid-19-vaccine-task-force-announce-plan-to-vaccinate-teachers-other-school-staff/>

Announcement on the Consolidated Appropriations Payments (Round 4)

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/wolf-administration-announces-plans-for-303-million-to-support-child-care-providers-across-pennsylvania/>

COVID-19 Resources:

Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) COVID-19 Provider Resources
DHS-Issued Guidance

www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/OCDEL-COVID19-Provider-Resources.aspx

All providers should check in periodically to PA DOH:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

DOH's COVID-19 Vaccine page with COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

National and state guidance related to COVID-19 practices

<https://childcare.gov/covid-19>

ELRC 17 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PPE DISTRIBUTION EVENT



**PLEASE NOTE: PPE KIT
WEIGHS APPROX. 65 LBS**

TUESDAY MARCH 9 12:30PM- 3:30PM
WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 12:30PM- 3:30PM
THURSDAY MARCH 11 12:30PM- 3:30PM

LOCATION: 101 BROWER AVE. OAKS, PA 19456

PHONE: ELRC OFFICE 610-278-3707

PICK UP DAY ONLY: 484-332-1315

KITS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- 3-Ply Medical Face Mask w. Ear Loops
- 20 Disposable Face Shields
- Non-Surgical Isolation Gowns
- 4 Boxes of Nitrile Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer, 8 oz, 62% alcohol, with Aloe, flip top
- Hand Sanitizer, 16 oz, hand pump
- Wipes, 50 count (or any size available)
- Shoe Covers
- Infrared Thermometer

**If your program received a PPE Kit during the
February Distribution, you are not currently eligible
for another kit at this time.**

Personal Protective Equipment:

Partnership between ELRC 17 & Montco Office of Public Health

Pre-Packaged PPE Kits will be delivered by carrier when the first positive COVID case is reported by the child care program.

Personal Protective Equipment: ELRC 17 – Open Purchase Order

- Limit \$1,000.00 per location to start
- First come, first served
- Delivered directly to the location; delivery address must match PELICAN

Winter Coats: ELRC 17 has winter coats available!

Different sizes & colors are available

Supplies are limited (first come, first served)

One coat per child or adult

For more information about pick up date and time, please contact:

Resource & Referral

Phone: 610-278-3707

Email: ELRCRegion17@pa.gov

Books, Books, Books!

“A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.”

ELRC has children’s books available. We can offer a package of books to programs and/or families upon request.

Please contact:

Resource & Referral

Phone: 610-278-3707

Email: ELRCRegion17@pa.gov



Health & Safety Regional Task Force

Guest Speaker:

Carol Szollose
Personal Navigator
1421 Highland Ave.
Abington, Pa 19001
215-572-7880 x 308
Intake line 1-800-591-8234



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Health & Safety Regional Task Force

Introduction: Youth Mental Health First Aid

Brenda Boorse & Tricia Malott

Regional Mental Health Services Coordination Office

<https://www.fivecountymh.org/>



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64.1%

of youth with major depression
do not receive any mental
health treatment.

- Mental Health America

1 in 5

teens and young adults
lives with a mental
health condition.

- National Alliance for Mental Illness

5.13%

of youth report having a
substance use or
alcohol problem.

- Mental Health America

The course will teach you how to apply the ALGEE action plan:

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **G**ive reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

Why Youth Mental Health First Aid?

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. This 6-hour training gives adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to children and adolescents (ages 6-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

Three Learning Options

- **Virtual.** First Aiders will complete a 2-hour, self-paced online class, then participate in a 4- to 5-hour instructor-led videoconference.
- **Blended Learning.** After completing a 2-hour, self-paced online class, First Aiders will participate in a 4-hour, in-person, instructor-led class.
- **In-person.** First Aiders will receive their training as an 6.5-hour instructor-led in-person course.

Who Should Take it

- Teachers
- School staff
- Coaches
- Camp counselors
- Youth group leaders
- Parents
- People who work with youth

What it Covers

- Common signs and symptoms of mental illness in this age group, including
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Eating disorders
 - Attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD)
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use
- How to interact with a child or adolescent in crisis
- How to connect the person with help
- **NEW:** Expanded content on trauma, addiction and self-care and the impact of social media and bullying



As adults, we sometimes forget how hard it was being an adolescent. When we see a kid who is just miserable at school, we might think they choose to be that way — or that it's just part of adolescence. But in fact, they might be in a mental health crisis, one they certainly did not choose and do not want. When a teacher says, "How can I be helpful?" that is a powerful question."

— Alyssa Fruchtenicht, school-based mental health counselor

Open Forum:

- **Daily screening procedures**
 - Documenting procedures in writing
 - Implementing daily practices
- **Procedures for enrolling new families**
 - Documenting procedures in writing
 - Implementing practices with new families
- **Best Practices for mitigating the spread of COVID19**

Questions & Answers?

Concerns & Suggestions?

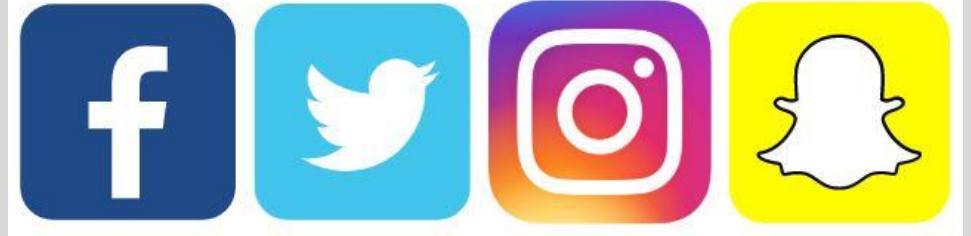
Unmet needs?

Supportive processes & systems?



Health & Safety Regional Task Force

Follow us on Social Media @HHSMontcoPA



Upcoming meetings:

Local Leadership Council

Wed 4/21/21

1 pm – 2 pm (Zoom)

Health & Safety Regional Task Force

Wed 4/21/21

2 pm – 3 pm (Zoom)



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**Thank you for
joining us today!**

