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## WITH CHILDREN ISOLATED + FAMILIES UNDER HIGH STRESS, KIDS MAY BE MORE VULNERABLE TO ABUSE.

With many of us turning inward to practice the kind of distancing that will keep us safe from this virus, Child Advocacy Centers across the country continue to be vigilant about what it means for home to be the unsafe place. Times of crisis like the epidemic before us may lead to unintended economic and social strain on families, which in turn increases vulnerability to violence and abuse. The warning signs for child physical and sexual abuse may not be obvious at first glance. The vast majority of child sexual abuse occurs by someone known to the child and family. Often, children will ask for help in ways we aren't looking for, but that may strike our gut – through changes in mood or behavior, or by “testing the waters” and disclosing only snippets of the abuse. We have resources that can help community members who are now spending more time in their neighborhoods to be equipped to recognize and report any suspected abuse of a child. One invested, aware, and trustworthy adult can be a protective factor in a child's life.

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**During this time, we encourage professionals to 1) continue reporting any suspected abuse, 2) stay updated about information regarding child abuse and neglect, and 3) help encourage community members to take preventative action and to speak out about the abuse of children.**

### RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS:

1. COVID-19 Resources for CACs: [National Children's Alliance](#)
2. Podcast about Child Abuse: [National Children's Alliance](#)
3. User-Friendly Tip Sheet Helping Someone Being Abused: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
4. UNICEF Child Abuse During COVID Press Release: [UNICEF](#)
5. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: [Darkness to Light](#)
6. Domestic Violence and Child Abuse: [CHOP](#) and [UNICEF](#)

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance continues to serve the needs of this population alongside our partner organizations. For more information about our work:

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

**To make a report for suspected child abuse or neglect, call the DHS Hotline at (215) 683-6100 or PA's ChildLine at 1 (800)-932-0313.**



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