

August Project GRANDD Events and Groups

Tuesday August 4, 2020: Virtual Field Trip!

Let's Talk about Loneliness Social Isolation

Link for virtual field trip: <https://bit.ly/granddfieldtrip>

Zoom Call-in number: +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 82634569706

MONDAY* August 10, 2020: Weekly Check-In *note day change

Tuesday August 18, 2020: Virtual Education for the Upcoming School Year

Tuesday August 25, 2020:

Link for all check ins: <https://bit.ly/grandd20>

Dial-in by Phone Number: (414) 600-9528 PIN: 888 104 633#

If you need help setting up your Google account, contact Ashlyn at
ashlynd@isdd-home.org or (470) 310 3458.

Emergency Food Box Pick-Up

Thursdays through the end of
August: Noon-3 PM
5-8 pound box of Georgia-grown
fruits and vegetables

PICK UP ONLY

Project GRANDD Office
4282 Memorial Drive, Suite B
Decatur, GA 30032

RSVP REQUIRED EACH WEEK

ashlynd@isdd-home.org
or **470-310-3458**

Child & Teen Groups

August 12th/13th
August 26th/27th

PASTA Groups

Weekly on Thursday evenings
and Friday Mornings

Please reach out if you have any questions
regarding youth groups or PASTA classes!

HEALTH CORNER

How to Protect Yourself When Caring for a Child Who is Sick with COVID-19

By Lauren Rowello from The Washington Post



My 10-year-old's sputtering, empty cough lasted a weekend. He didn't show any other symptoms, and his chest barely bounced when he turned his head to aim at his sleeve. It was early March and reports of an outbreak felt distant — in Washington state and overseas. We convinced ourselves that we were safe on the East Coast.

When my 7-year-old developed a similar dry hack, it was more powerful and persistent, and it was accompanied by a low fever and fatigue. My sick child insisted on sleeping in my bed — cuddling close and holding my hand for comfort — making it hard to dodge the overnight coughs. Within a few days it was as if the kids had never been ill. But a week later, I developed that same cough, and my symptoms progressed quickly to pneumonia. A chest X-ray and other testing confirmed I had covid-19.

I've recovered, for the most part, though I'm still coping with fatigue and some other lingering symptoms. But now, as many states have begun reopening and families inch back toward normalcy, including camps, activities and larger gatherings, I'm concerned that health and safety will become an afterthought. And I worry about the challenges faced by parents who find themselves caring for sick kids while trying to stay healthy themselves.

[Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health](#), says that despite early reports that children were largely unaffected by the novel [coronavirus](#), kids are at risk of contracting and spreading the virus, and while most children are able to recover without issues, parents shouldn't assume that all kids will be just fine if they are exposed. "A small percentage of infected kids can develop very severe covid and in some cases die," Rasmussen says, and she emphasizes that even if the child doesn't get very ill, they can transmit the virus to others. "This is especially true for the close contacts with whom they spend significant time indoors — such as members of their household."

I didn't do a good job of protecting myself from my children's illness, and I'm still living with the consequences. As kids reenter social settings, it's important to teach them to protect themselves while they're away from home, to reduce the risk of them bringing the virus back to their parents, says [Kristin Moffit, a pediatric infectious-disease specialist at Boston Children's Hospital](#). And if they do get sick, there are some simple preventive measures you can take to try to minimize the chances of another family member getting infected.

Monica Gri, of Houston, recently decided to send her children, ages 7 months and 4 years, back to day care. Her husband is immunocompromised, and she recognizes that the virus could easily find its way into her home, but she doesn't feel that she has another option. "In a perfect world, we'd all stay sheltered inside and safe from all germs, but we tried that for two months and it just wasn't sustainable with both of us working," she says, adding that she's taking precautions. "I don't allow [our 4-year-old] to touch anything after school. When I pick her up, she covers her hands and arms in hand sanitizer. When we get home, it's literally straight to the bath. The baby follows. Their clothes go in the wash immediately."

Moffitt says parents need to plan ahead for possible illness. Stock up on essentials, including over-the-counter fever medications, a humidifier, bleach or other CDC-recommended cleaning supplies, hand soap, face coverings and some extra groceries, in case someone gets sick. Parents should also consider designating a point person outside the home who can bring in supplies in the event someone in the home gets sick and the family has to quarantine.

Rasmussen notes that if a child tests positive or presents symptoms, the best way to avoid spreading the virus is to separate the child from the rest of the household, but this isn't always practical — particularly for young children.

In those cases, Moffitt says, families will need to be creative. Children should sleep in a bedroom alone, even if it means rearranging sleeping quarters. If co-sleeping or room-sharing must occur, she suggests sleeping head to toe if children are old enough or rearranging furniture to reduce transmission. Good ventilation is key, because droplets could linger in stagnant air. Moffitt recommends opening windows and using fans.

Designate one adult, ideally one who is not in a high-risk population, to monitor and interact with the sick child, but even that person should keep contact to a minimum. If the child's typical caretakers are high-risk, consider enlisting the help of other community members. If possible, both the child and the caretaker should wear masks. Moffitt says that caregivers can continue nursing if children rely on it for comfort or nutrition. In this case, the adult should wear a mask and carefully wash their skin — including the chest and nipples in addition to hands — with soap and water after each encounter. Bottles used to feed babies should be sterilized after use.

Rachel Feichter, of Washington, D.C., had a teen with covid-19, but she managed to keep it from spreading throughout the house. Her younger child is on chemotherapy and immunosuppressants for an autoimmune disease, so their family is often on high alert during cold and flu season.

As soon as Feichter's teen showed symptoms, she isolated her from other household members. Her daughter would shout when she was leaving her bedroom to go to the bathroom and everyone moved to a different area of the house while she came out of her quarantined space. Each time her daughter used the bathroom, she wore a mask and gloves, then Feichter immediately decontaminated that space and other surfaces her sick child might have touched or breathed on, while wearing a mask and gloves. She also wiped door handles and kitchen surfaces at least twice per day and maintained six feet of distance when caring for her child.

Parents of younger children may have to explain why the precautions are so important. "Teach them why they're separated and use age-appropriate language to explain the illness," Moffitt says. "Use toys or videos to show how germs are passed from one person to another who is too close and demonstrate which distances are safest." If a child must be held, caregivers should use personal protective equipment and wash regularly.

Moffitt also emphasizes the importance of empowering children to be part of the solutions the family develops. "They should be told that they're sick and need time and space to get better," she says. "Show them that there are other ways to stay connected by using tablets or mobile devices. Brainstorm together about the ways you can play while maintaining distance." Some examples include reading a book or telling stories from across the room, playing a game that does not require proximity, such as Pictionary or I Spy, or watching a movie. Make sure they have their favorite blankets, stuffed animals and pajamas, and let them use communication devices when they are feeling lonely.

"Launder favorite items and change clothes if they're wet or soiled — including if they've been biting or sucking on fabric — but don't be aggressive about frequent changes," Moffitt says, noting that sick, cranky kids may be less amenable to showers, and that is okay. Caregivers should limit contact with the child's high-use items and wash their hands after touching them.

Physical distancing and other protective measures should continue until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, or until the child is symptom-free for three days. Moffitt says people who test positive are most infectious two to three days before and after developing symptoms, so that is the time frame to really focus on.

Then it's just a matter of waiting it out until some semblance of normal family life can resume. "There's no magic secret to it," Fichter says. "You just try your best and stay diligent as a family for a few weeks."

RESOURCE CORNER

P-EBT is available for families who receive free or reduced lunch at school but do not qualify for food stamps. They need to Apply by September 25.

<https://dfcs.georgia.gov/pandemic-electronic-benefit-transfer>

Atlanta Community Food Bank Help Map: www.acfb.org/covid-19-help-map -- just put in your address and the site will lead you to the food bank or agency closest to you!

Find Food Near You With Just a Text:

Text FINDFOOD or COMIDA to 888-976-2232

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A program of Innovative Solutions for
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