

**CALL TO ACTION FOR STATE GOVERNORS
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES
Children at Risk During COVID-19 Era**

Level of abuse/neglect	KNOWN families with severe risk of abuse and/or neglect	NEW REPORTS about child abuse/neglect	NO REPORT YET – but the child is being abused and neglected
Challenges and Needs	<p>Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child protection workers are not being allowed in the home. 2. CPS workers are fearful of entering a home without PPEs. 3. CPS workers don't have PPEs. <p>Needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declare CPS caseworkers and administrators essential personnel, who are first responders for children at risk during this critical time when children are high risk of abuse and/or neglect. 2. PPEs for CPS. 	<p>Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entering a home or investigating new allegations. Based on the allegations, there are circumstances where the worker <u>must</u> gain access to the home to verify: adequate food, suspicious injuries, a dangerous home environment, children remotely attending school, or untreated illness. 2. CPS workers don't have PPEs. <p>Needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a letter for CPS workers to families explaining CPS workers <u>ARE</u> first responders. If workers have on appropriate PPE, worker must be admitted to the home. 	<p>Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When there are no reports, but someone knows / suspects that abuse and neglect is taking place. 2. Persuading the public to be more pro-active about child abuse/neglect. 3. Children are not being seen by mandated reporters including teachers, doctors, dentists, and others. <p>Needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion in COVID-19 updates with a call to all adults to report what they know and a reference to the child abuse hotline in the state. There are mandated reporters by profession, but those eyes are not on children right now.



	<p>3. Collect data on numbers of home visits, including refusal to enter.</p>	<p>2. Collect data on new reports, numbers of home visits, including refusal to enter.</p>	<p>2. Encourage parents to continue their children's routine visits to pediatricians especially if vaccinations are needed for ages 0-2 years old, even if the visits are virtual for now.</p> <p>3. Make sure every child has a computer so they can be in school and in touch with teacher.</p> <p>4. Collect data on children not attending school remotely.</p>
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For more on child protection during the coronavirus era, check out www.childusa.org/coronavirus or contact us at info@childusa.org. To see CHILD USA's CEO, Professor Marci Hamilton's, call to action go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xz7WDfpsZM>.