

Hello all,

I hope that you are each doing well and staying sane during this difficult time. The rapid transition we are experiencing can be unnerving, anxiety-producing, and frustrating. Please remember to take deep breaths.

So here are a few thoughts to consider for a mentor in response to the COVID - 19.

1. Provide resources and tips as indicated below.
2. Postpone mentor meeting with your mentee in person until ? and encourage contact via phone, text, and postal mail.
3. Kinship families can contact their Program Coordinator with specific concerns or home management needs that they could help find resources for them or guidance.
4. Maybe send a card to Kinship youth or something small like a deck of cards once a week.

Other Mentoring Resources & Tips

Be mindful. As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, it may trigger [trauma for young people](#) impacted by the virus or by the news surrounding the pandemic. Let your mentee know that you see them and are there for them.

Be intentional about preserving continuity in the relationship.

- Acknowledge what is going on and engage in a dialogue about the pandemic.
- Understand and honor your emotions and the emotions of your mentee, including the range of reactions that may be expressed.
- Commit to self-care. Know that it is okay to take a break from the news and discussions about the virus as needed to manage anxiety or other responses to the situation.

Be in it together. Let your mentee know that you are in this together and are here to help.

- Follow the latest on COVID-19 on the [CDC's website](#).
- Follow the guidelines of your mentoring program, institution, or the guardians of your mentee around how to connect and communicate virtually with your mentee if in-person connections are suspended. Decide on clear boundaries and agreements about how you will connect with your mentee when meeting in-person and continue to follow the latest health guidelines and recommendations about where and how to gather.

Be communicative. Healthy and supportive relationships are crucial during this time.

- If your mentoring program remains open and you feel comfortable, continue to show up for them in person – young people need our support now more than ever!

- If in-person meetings must pause, follow the appropriate path:
 - **If you are permitted/able to communicate virtually with your mentee:**
 - Let your mentee know you need to temporarily pause seeing them in person but are still there for them virtually. Create a plan with your mentee about how you will stay in touch while continuing to follow the appropriate guidelines.
 - **If you are not permitted/able to communicate virtually:**
 - Work with the program to figure out a way to pass along information to let your mentee know that [you care](#), value the relationship, and will need to temporarily pause in-person meetings. Health and safety are the primary focuses at this time.

Additional Resources:

- Review this [guide on trauma](#)
- Read this [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#) resource
- Share this [Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#) with youth