



Teachers

We need your help to protect children from abuse during these uncertain times.

Navigating a New Normal

Teachers, administrators, and other school employees are crucial for a significant number of reports of abuse & neglect. Yet due to COVID-19, students are at home where child abuse is more likely to go unreported. Many parents struggle to balance the new demands of childcare with the stress and anxiety related to COVID-19. Though your students aren't coming into your classroom, you still play an important role in the fight against child abuse in our community. Here's how you can help.



Engage & Connect

In these uncertain times, teachers still play an integral role in keeping children safe, particularly when the abuse occurs in the home. If there are students you have worried about in the past and you believe might be more at risk under quarantine at home, now is the time to check on them more frequently.



Remember the Signs of Abuse

We still need you, teachers, to be on the lookout for signs of abuse. Although education is currently being provided through a remote learning platform and at a distance, be sure to still look for unexplained injuries, lack of personal care and hygiene, and changes in school performance.



Reporting Suspected Abuse

You have the right and responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect free of fear, intimidation, or regret (West Virginia Code §49-6A-6). When making a report, answer all questions as thoroughly as possible and provide detailed and descriptive information. ***If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, call 911.***

If you have any safety concerns relating to child abuse or neglect, please call the West Virginia Abuse Hotline at 1-800-352-6513.



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Visit wvde.us/reclaimwv for help hotlines and more information related to trauma, substance misuse, and mental health.

