At The Preuss School UC San Diego, our goal is to be a Trauma Informed, or Compassionate School.
“Without the structure and safety of school, children who are already vulnerable to abuse and neglect at home, face a greater threat”

-California Governor Gavin Newsom
Threat Assessment in a Virtual Setting
Counselor Process for Threat Assessment

**Threat to self or others is made:**
- Do not leave the student unattended/ensure contact is maintained in remote environment.
- Complete threat assessment documents

**Transient threat**
- Statements do not express a long lasting intent to harm.
- Statements reflect feelings that dissipate in a short period

1. Counsel student as appropriate
2. Notify parent/legal guardian
3. Refer to appropriate intervention or notify current provider

**Substantive or Serious Substantive Threat**
- Serious intent to harm others or self that involves a detailed plan and means.

1. Notify administration immediately
2. Notify parent/guardian if appropriate

**If parent NOT contacted:**
1. Contact UCSD Police or PERT Team
2. Complete Student Removal from Campus form

**Follow up with parent (Treatment, referrals, medication)**

**If parent contacted:**
1. Complete Emotional Evaluation
2. Complete No Harm Contract

**Follow up with parent (Treatment, referrals, medication)**
Concerning Behaviors in a Virtual Setting

- Threats made during Zoom classroom sessions
- Concerning social media posts
- Engagement with virtual communities that encourage violence
- Cyberbullying
- Increased resentment due to societal and educational inequities
- Mental health concerns due to social isolation
- Symptoms of previous MH concerns
- Anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse
- Increased exposure to domestic violence
- Student, family, & community stressors
Increase Area of Awareness in Virtual Setting

- Typed/Written Assignments
- Zoom Chat
  - Limiting private chats in Zoom
- Loud/unidentified noises coming from Zoom
- Social Media posts
- Group Chats for Class/Google Hangouts
- Inconsistent Attendance (i.e. frequently late or leaves before class ends)
What do I do if I suspect a student may be showing threat to others/threat to self/other concerning behaviors?

If you are in **direct** contact with a student in crisis, **DURING Zoom meeting:**

- Step 1: Maintain video/voice contact with student
- Step 2: Verbalize/private chat student to remain in the Zoom until we can connect them with additional support.
- Step 3: Call/text School Counselor immediately
- Step 4: After Zoom class, email School Counselor and Admin regarding concerns that were presented
What do I do if I suspect a student may be showing threat to others/threat to self/other concerning behaviors?

If you are in **indirect** contact with a student in crisis (i.e. concerning assignment turned in, text/email from student, etc.):

- Email School Counselor and Admin regarding concerns with attached documentation
  - If appropriate, you may offer student support or comfort with concerns presented
All Preuss Employees are Mandated Reporters

All permanent and temporary Preuss employees including faculty, admin, substitutes and classified staff

➔ Volunteers are not legally obligated to report abuse, but if they discuss concerns with you, you are required to follow up
Remember, we are not investigators

- Do not interrogate a child, CWS or law enforcement will handle the investigation
- Be aware that family could intimidate a child into recanting allegations
- You are not required to inform a parent if you file a CPS report
Child Welfare and Abuse Reporting

**Kids Need Schools to Continue Reporting Abuse During COVID-19 Crisis**

Empowering teachers, counselors, nutrition staff, and others in their role as mandated reporters during the COVID-19 crisis.

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Students not being in school creates new challenges to reporting abuse in times of crisis and economic instability, child abuse and neglect rates increase. However, reports of child abuse and neglect in San Diego County have declined dramatically. The ability to speak up for kids' safety is crucial at this time.

**Making a report is asking for help and services**

If you reasonably suspect a child is unsafe—report. You do not need proof. You are not making an accusation. You are asking for a professional to help a child and their family.

**To report effectively, explain why you suspect abuse or what the student has shared**

Example: On two separate occasions during morning meetings in the virtual classroom, (child) shared that there is no food in the home and there is no running water or clean clothes. (Teacher) has attempted outreach to the parent on five occasions since student self-reported with no response; school social worker has also not been able to reach them.

**You may be the only person to act**

While schools are closed, school/district employees, administrators, and athletic coaches still have a duty to report. If you suspect abuse or neglect—report it.

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**Helpful Tips for Protecting Children**

**Continue to let students know you remain a supportive, caring adult in their lives:**

- Check in regularly with students and/or caregivers.
- Provide encouraging messages.
- Ask questions to engage children. Ex: “Give me one word that describes how you feel today?” “How is learning from home different from learning at school?”

**Signs of concerns:**

- If a child communicates they feel unsafe, you see a child in a dangerous environment, or you notice a significant change in a child’s mood/behavior.
- For students with technology/internet access: lack of virtual attendance or homework not completed over a long period of time.
- If you have had no contact at all with a family after many repeated phone calls/messages.

**Make an extra effort with children who:**

- Have a history of emotional, sexual, physical abuse or neglect, drug use, or discussed/attempted suicide.
- Are responsible for the care of other children or live in a highly stressful family situation with limited support systems.
- Require assistance due to physical, mental, behavioral, or medical disabilities or delays.

**Legal Responsibilities and Protections:**

- School personnel are mandated reporters.
  - If you have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect, you must directly report it immediately to the hotline: 1-800-344-6000.
  - No administrator or supervisor may impede or inhibit any report.
  - When you make a report in good faith you are protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action.

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Adapted from Prevent Child Abuse Missouri and Missouri KidsFirst.
Reported rates of child abuse and neglect are 5 times higher for children in families with low socio-economic status compared to children in families with higher socio-economic status.
The month of April saw a sharp decline in Child Abuse Reports once schools were closed or virtual due to the pandemic.

Comparing 2019 to 2020 by month, the data shows that the monthly state totals of child abuse reports were an average of 14.2 percent lower in March 2020, 40.6 percent lower in April and 35.1 percent lower in May.
San Diego County received 1,525 calls to its child abuse hotline the week before schools closed. The following week, calls plummeted by nearly half to 856.

In April 2019, there were 5,731 calls to the hotline. Up until April 12, there have only been 1144.

Source: County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
Do we need to have evidence to make a child abuse report?
A mandated reporter only needs to have *reasonable suspicion* that a child has been mistreated.
What Must Be Reported

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
Report
Suspected Child Abuse
by Phone
Call ASAP:
Child Welfare Services
OR
The Police or Sheriff’s Department

- Call immediately or as soon as possible
- Whomever the child disclose to should be the one to call in the report
- If 2 employees hear disclosure, 1 report is sufficient
Local Child Abuse Prevention Hotline

1(800) 344-6000

or

(858) 560-2191
In Addition to Calling:

● A written report must be:
  ○ Sent by mail
  ○ Faxed
  ○ Emailed (with provided link)
Suspected Child Abuse Report Form

Reminders
UCSD OPHD Reporting

If the child abuse relates to bias, harassment, or discrimination, as a University employee you may be required to report motivated incidents to OPHD.

Ways to Report

Report suspected bias incidents to the OPHD office in the following ways:

- **Online** – ReportBias.ucsd.edu (Available at any time)
- **Email** – Send a report to ophd@ucsd.edu (Available at any time)
- **By Phone** – (858) 534-8298
As Always...

If you suspect... report!
Resources for Students

You are not alone.
Support is always available.

TEEN GUIDE TO MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Taking Care of You and Your Friends’ Mental Health

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text TALKto741741 to text with a trained counselor for free
- California Warmline: 1-888-546-7445; available 24/7
- A non-emergency resource for anyone seeking emotional support
- The Trevor Project: TrevorLifeline: 1-866-488-7386; Text TREVOR to 1-202-386-1380; TrevorChat.Via thetrevorproject.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233; Text LOVEIS to 22522; Resources for teen dating abuse
- Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-444-4000 (24/7)
- My3 App: Define your network and your plan to stay safe; my3app.org
- MindShift App: Strategies to help cope with stress and anxiety

10 SELF-CARE STRATEGIES FOR TEENS

1. It's OK to feel overwhelmed. Focus on what you can control, like your breathing and being in the present moment.
2. Spend time outside, even if you’re avoiding crowds.
3. Engage in mindfulness activities, such as starting a gratitude journal or preparing your favorite meal.
4. Practice self-care in whatever form it looks like to you, which may include exercising, reading, meditation or getting adequate sleep.
5. Reach out to whomever and whatever you know helps you.
6. Make a list of your favorite songs or movies, and share the list with your friends.
7. Challenge negative beliefs about change.
8. Find new ways to connect with your friends. Social distancing should not mean social isolation.
9. Make your space comfy and cozy.
10. Set boundaries with your media consumption.

TEEN APPS FOR SELF-CARE

- GRITx
- STOP, BREATHE, THINK
- VIRTUAL HOPE BOX

Personal Wellness Resources
AB 1432 – CALIFORNIA SCHOOL PERSONNEL: MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING

San Diego County Suicide Prevention Council Resource Guide for Schools 2020

Phased PreK-12 Schools Re-Opening Guideline: Mental Health

Reporting Abuse During COVID-19 - San Diego County Office of Education
Sources Cited

- https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html
- https://salud-america.org/latino-childhood-development-research-childhood-trauma/
- http://www.mandatedreporterca.com/training/training.htm
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.html#can