

Facilitator's Guide to a Family Prevention Education Night Developed by the Opioid Response Network

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many schools to close their physical doors and move all operations online. This shift in operation has strained our educational institutions and changed the amount and ways they can provide support to students and families.

The Opioid Response Network (ORN) has developed this slide deck and guide for administrators, faculty, and staff of middle school aged students to use as a guide for an online Family Prevention Education night.

The goals of the session are:

- ✧ To help prevent and delay youth opioid and other substance use
- ✧ To strengthen the connection between youth and their parents or caregivers
- ✧ To improve your home safety
- ✧ To learn more about school and community resources

The session is designed for both caregivers and their middle and/or high school youth to participate in together. While the primary audience is the caregivers, it is often difficult for some caregivers to access the internet, and most youth who are enrolled in school have developed the capacity with a device and skills to engage online. In addition, by working with the family unit, there are opportunities to build connections across families and for people to experience their common challenges, reducing isolation.

The session is designed for one hour, with many interactive opportunities for individual families and small groups. Facilitators can choose to expand, adapt, or change the sections based on the needs of their families and community. Here is the basic session outline:

- ✧ Introductions (10 minutes)
- ✧ Impact of COVID on Youth (7 minutes)
- ✧ Parent/Youth Connection (10 minutes)
- ✧ Connecting Activity (10 minutes)
- ✧ Thinking About Our Homes (5 minutes)
- ✧ Making Your Home Safer (including Guide) (7 minutes)
- ✧ Conversation Tips (5 minutes)
- ✧ Resources and Wrap Up (5 minutes)

Prior to the session, please review the slide deck to personalize several slides with local information and to select or insert a prompt or question of your choosing.

Yellow highlights indicate specific places where personalized information is needed, or a selection needs to be made.

The first slide walks through each slide, providing facilitators with specific instructions for activities.

In addition to the slide deck, the ORN has developed an illustrated, easy-to-read handout/PDF in English and Spanish on home safety. This handout is at the end of this document and can be shared with families during the session or emailed after the session. You can also post the handout on your website to encourage families to make their homes safer.

Thank you so much for caring about your youth and families. If you have any questions or would like to submit a request to the Opioid Response Network for assistance, please visit their website at <https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/>.