



COVID-19 Family Needs Assessment Survey (English version)

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the closure of many early childhood education (ECE) programs across Connecticut and beyond. Even while they are unable to provide in-person services to their children and families, some ECE programs are working to support their children and families in other ways, including online/distance learning opportunities and efforts to help families fulfil their basic needs.

Even programs that know their children and families well may be uncertain about which of their families' needs are most acute in this difficult time. PEER developed the COVID-19 Family Needs Assessment Survey and the parallel COVID-19 Teacher/Staff Needs Assessment Survey in response to a request from one of our research partners, Maritime Odyssey Preschool in Norwalk, CT. The family survey may be useful to programs that are looking for a systematic way to learn about their families' needs so that they can seek ways to address these needs.

Logistics

- If your program would like to administer this survey online, several free survey platforms are available, including Google Forms and SurveyMonkey. Confirm that the survey platform you choose will allow you to download your results in spreadsheet format. (CSV, XLSX, etc.)
- Once you have created an online survey, you will be able to distribute the survey link to your families via email or text message.
- When the survey is over, you can examine the results for trends. Depending on the survey platform chosen, you should be able to view the results online as well as download the results.
- The survey is also available in Spanish at <https://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/peer/publications/>.

Other considerations

- The survey includes sensitive questions about how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting families. For this reason, this survey is designed to be **anonymous**. We recommend that you do not collect the name of the respondent or other identifying information.
- Because the survey is anonymous, you will not be able to respond directly to individual respondents. We recommend that at the close of the survey, you provide the contact information of someone respondents can email if they are seeking support for a specific need or concern.
- Many families are struggling to meet their basic needs, and individual ECE programs may not have the personnel or resources to respond to needs identified by this survey. Before deciding to administer the family survey, consider whether your program has the capacity to act on the responses. If not, it may not make sense to administer the family survey.
- PEER has also created a teacher/staff version of this survey, which is available at <https://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/peer/publications/>. Before deciding to administer the teacher/staff survey, consider the size of your staff and whether you have enough staff to ensure that individuals can participate in the survey anonymously (at least 10 individuals). As above, please also consider whether your program has the capacity to act on the results of the teacher/staff survey prior to your decision to administer it.



COVID-19 Family Needs Assessment Survey

All parents/guardians of children enrolled at [NAME OF PROGRAM] are invited to participate in an anonymous survey about how the COVID-19 pandemic and public health response are affecting you and your family. [NAME OF PROGRAM] will use the overall results of this survey to determine how to best serve the [NAME OF PROGRAM] community. This survey was created by the Partnership for Early Education Research (PEER) in collaboration with Maritime Odyssey Preschool. More information about PEER is located at <http://peer.yale.edu/>.

Additional Information:

- **This survey is anonymous.** You will NOT be asked to provide your name or the name of your child.
- If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete the survey on the next screen.
- It will take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey.
- **Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary.** You are free to skip any question you choose, and you can stop at any time.
- We hope that the results of this survey will help us better serve members of the [NAME OF PROGRAM] community.
- Because the survey is anonymous, you will not receive a direct reply to your response.

If you would like to participate in this survey, please click the arrow below to move to the next screen.

Item	Response
<i>To help us understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting you and your family, please tell us which of the following has happened to you or someone in your household since the pandemic began.ⁱ</i>	
<i>Since the pandemic began, someone in my household was...</i>	
1. Diagnosed with COVID-19	0=No; 1=Yes
2. Told to self-quarantine	0=No; 1=Yes
3. Laid off or fired as result of the pandemic	0=No; 1=Yes
4. Required to work from home	0=No; 1=Yes
5. Required to work outside of home despite risks	0=No; 1=Yes
<i>How stressful has each of the following been for you since the pandemic began?ⁱⁱ</i>	
6. Understanding health recommendations around COVID-19 (for example, social distancing guidelines)	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful
7. Obtaining food, clothing, toiletries, and other basic needs	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful

8.	Accessing laundry equipment and cleaning supplies	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful
9.	Disruptions to regular routines	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful
10.	Disruptions to regular social interactions	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful
11.	Fears about your own or loved ones' health	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful
12.	Accessing medical care or treatment needed by someone in your household.	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful, 88=does not apply
13.	Having to stay home from work to care for children because of school/daycare closures	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful, 88=does not apply
14.	Trying to find childcare because adults had to work outside the home during school/daycare closures	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful, 88=does not apply
15.	Trying to work from home with children home from school or daycare	0=Not at all stressful, 1=a little stressful, 2=somewhat stressful, 3=extremely stressful, 88=does not apply

Many households are experiencing financial concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please report whether each of the following has happened to your household in the last 30 days.ⁱⁱⁱ

16.	We lost some or all of our income	0=No, 1=Yes
17.	We had to postpone medical care to save money	0=No, 1=Yes
18.	We could not afford enough food for our family	0=No, 1=Yes
19.	We could not pay our rent or mortgage	0=No, 1=Yes
20.	We could not pay all our bills	0=No, 1=Yes
21.	We had to stay in a homeless shelter or public place	0=No, 1=Yes
22.	We had to apply for TANF or other federal assistance to make ends meet	0=No, 1=Yes
23.	We had to take additional employment to help meet expenses	0=No, 1=Yes

Our program/school has been working to keep kids learning and connected while our program is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please indicate how helpful each of the following opportunities has been.^{iv}

24.	Daily read-alouds in English and Spanish (via Zoom)	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this opportunity but have not participated.
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25. Weekly family meetings with social worker (via Zoom)	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this opportunity but have not participated.
26. Online chat rooms for parents	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this opportunity but have not participated.
27. Communication from my child's teacher(s) (via email or phone)	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this communication but have not received it.
28. Communication from program/school leaders (via text or phone)	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this communication but have not received it.
29. Help obtaining a device (for example, a Chromebook)	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this opportunity but have not participated.
30. Support with technology (for example, learning to use Zoom)	0=Not helpful at all; 1=Somewhat helpful; 2=Very helpful; -88=I was not aware of this opportunity; -77=I was aware of this opportunity but have not participated.
Finally, we are interested in what kind of support would help you most during the COVID-19 pandemic. How interested would you be in each of the following types of support?*	
31. Opportunities to connect with my child's teacher(s)	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
32. Information about activities I can use to support my child's development	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
33. Opportunities to connect with other parents	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
34. Information about coping with stress	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
35. Assistance obtaining food for my family	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
36. Assistance with my housing (for example, paying rent/mortgage, finding housing, etc.)	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
37. Assistance with locating emergency childcare so I can work	0=Not interested at all 1=Somewhat interested 2= Very interested
38. Please share any additional comments here.	

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses to this survey are anonymous. If you are seeking support for your specific needs and concerns, please email [CONTACT PERSON] at [CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL ADDRESS]. [NAME OF PROGRAM] will use the overall results of this survey to determine how to best serve the [NAME OF PROGRAM] community during this challenging time.

ⁱ Based on Wadsworth, M.E. (2020). Personal Communication.

ⁱⁱ Based on Wadsworth, M.E. (2020). Personal Communication.

ⁱⁱⁱ Based on Lempers, J.D., Clark-Lempers, D., & Simons, R.L. (1989) Economic hardship, parenting, and distress in adolescence. *Child development*, 60(1):25-39.

^{iv} Meyer, J.L. & Strambler, M.J. (unpublished).

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