



DATINGMATTERS®

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIPS



What's New?

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way that we live, work, learn, and play to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe. Many schools and community-based organizations have closed or restricted access to slow the spread of the virus, requiring the development of new and innovative ways of delivering education, prevention, and intervention services virtually.

Prevention During a Pandemic: Dating Matters® Adaptation Guidance for Virtual Implementation includes:

- **Tech tips** to reach participants and deliver program content in an online environment
- **Adaptation guidance** for program implementation, training, and supervision
- **Adapted activities and new slide sets** to make it easier to present program content online

[Download the adaptation guidance today!](#)

Thank you for your work to carry out these programs with fidelity and flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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PREVENTION DURING A PANDEMIC:
Dating Matters® Adaptation Guidance for Virtual Implementation

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we live, work, learn, and play to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe. Many schools and community-based organizations have closed or restricted access to slow the spread of the virus, requiring the development of new and innovative ways of delivering education, prevention, and intervention services virtually. A survey conducted by Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development between May and June 2020 found that 78% of the evidence-based youth development interventions included in their database had received requests to change the mode of program delivery as a result of COVID-19, and 76% had received requests for changes to training and/or support. Most of these programs reported providing online resources (55%), online training workshops (72%), and tele-sessions or video conferencing support services (50%) in response to these requests from communities.

This guide provides adaptation guidance for the virtual implementation of the Dating Matters youth, parent, and youth communication programs to assist communities in carrying out the programs with fidelity and flexibility in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance can also be applied by any community or organization in which virtual implementation is preferred.

Although the potential impact of virtual implementation on program effectiveness is unknown, the adaptations suggested here were designed to maintain essential elements of the program without compromising fidelity or efficacy. These adaptations primarily provide alternate options for delivery of the original content.

This guide includes:

- TECH TIPS** with ideas for harnessing the power of technology to reach participants and deliver program content in an online environment.
- GENERAL PROGRAM ADAPTATIONS** for training and supervision, program and implementation materials, and virtual implementation tips that apply across programs.
- SUGGESTED ADAPTATIONS BY PROGRAM AND SESSION** to guide facilitators to identifying activities in need of adaptation and providing suggested alternatives to complete them through virtual instruction.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

TEAM UP! For Dating Matters



Members of our online community of practice, [Team Up! for Dating Matters](#), received access to advance drafts of this virtual implementation guidance last year. This is just one example of how this free, online community can keep you connected to the latest Dating Matters news. Team Up! is also where you can download new slide sets for virtual implementation

This peer-led network gives everyone involved in Dating Matters a place to share tips, post questions, and discuss ideas for improving implementation in local communities.

Team Up! is housed on the Slack application, which is available for free on Android, iPhone, or Windows.

[CLICK TO REQUEST ACCESS TO TEAM UP! FOR DATING MATTERS](#)

Did You Know?

New research estimates that the annual cost to communities of implementing the comprehensive Dating Matter model can be as low as \$21 per student when school staff deliver the youth programs and more students are reached with the program. As training and most program materials are available at no-cost from CDC, the majority of this funding provides the staff support needed to carry out each of the Dating Matters components in middle schools, with parents, and in the community. Join us on Team Up! for a discussion of more ways to reduce the overall implementation costs of Dating Matters to your community or organization while reaching as many youth and families as possible with this evidence-based model.

TEAM UP! For Dating Matters

For the latest news on Dating Matters, [sign up here](#) to receive this quarterly newsletter!

[SUBSCRIBE NOW!](#)

Are you implementing Dating Matters? We would love to learn more about your plans and highlight your organization in an upcoming issue! Email datingmatters@cdc.gov.

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