



**August 4, 2020, Lancaster PA**  
**Press release**

## **Standing Together: Protecting Children During COVID-19**

[Safe Communities](#), with support from the [Lancaster Cares](#) fund and in collaboration with the [Spanish American Civic Association](#), [Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health](#), and [Joining Forces for Children](#), has launched [Standing Together](#), a bi-lingual campaign focused on educating adults in our community about child safety in four areas where COVID-19 isolation exposes them to increased risk: sexual abuse, living in a home with substance abuse, mental health, and the coronavirus itself.

It is urgent that parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and other adults in our community learn to recognize a child's distress when they see certain behavioral indicators, and reach out with care and support, even if they are not certain of what is happening. We cannot stand by and wait for the return of more routine contact with mandated reporters with so many of our children at risk. In addition, a second serious spike of the virus could create stay-at-home conditions this fall.

In addition to distributing educational information on child safety during COVID-19, Standing Together includes a series of bi-lingual interviews with experts on each of the four safety areas on WLCH radio, 91.3 FM in Lancaster and 100.3 FM in York, PA, starting with an interview with Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Dr. Angelica Montes on children and COVID-19 - August 5 at 8:15 AM; Christine Glover, Health Promotion Specialist, on Drug & Alcohol Addiction - August 12 at 8:15 AM; Linda Crockett on Child Sexual Abuse - August 25 at 8:30 AM; and Stephen Schuch on Children's Mental Health - Sept. 2 at 8:15 AM. To learn more, visit the Standing Together campaign page in English or Spanish under Events at [www.SafeCommunitiespa.org](http://www.SafeCommunitiespa.org).

**Press Release Contact:** Linda Crockett, Director, Safe Communities,  
313 W. Liberty St., Suite 242, Lancaster PA 17603 [lcrockett@safecommunitiespa.org](mailto:lcrockett@safecommunitiespa.org)  
O: 717 560 9989 C: 717 572 6404

### **Collaborative Organization Contacts**

**Spanish American Civic Association:**

Sandra Valdez [svaldez@sacapa.org](mailto:svaldez@sacapa.org)

***(see next page)***

**COVID-19; and Children's Mental Health Safety Areas**

**Penn Medicine: Mary Levasseur**

[mary.levasseur@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:mary.levasseur@penmedicine.upenn.edu)

**Drug and Alcohol Abuse Safety Area**

**Joining Forces for Children: Christine Glover**

[Christine.Glover@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:Christine.Glover@penmedicine.upenn.edu)

**Child Sexual Abuse Safety Area**

**Safe Communities, Linda Crockett**

[Lcrockett@safecommunitiespa.org](mailto:Lcrockett@safecommunitiespa.org)