

COVID-19

ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

As people are asked to stay at home, reports of partner and domestic violence are on the rise. Women and children are at particular risk of violence in their homes. Preventing and responding to violence is an important component of the COVID-19 response, and health workers play a critical role.



WHAT CAN HEALTH WORKERS DO?

Be aware of the increased risk of domestic violence in the context of COVID-19.

Recognize the signs and know when and how to ask about violence.

Provide timely care for physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health.

Provide first-line support to survivors.

Share information about available support and establish referrals to other essential services.



FIRST-LINE SUPPORT!

Apply LIVES:

- **Listen** to survivors without judgement.
- **Inquire** about and respond to their needs.
- **Validate.** Believe survivors and show them that they are not to blame.
- **Enhance** their safety.
- **Support** and connect them to other services.

First-line support is often the most important care you can provide. Even if this is all you can do, you will have greatly helped the survivor.

THERE IS NEVER ANY EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE.

