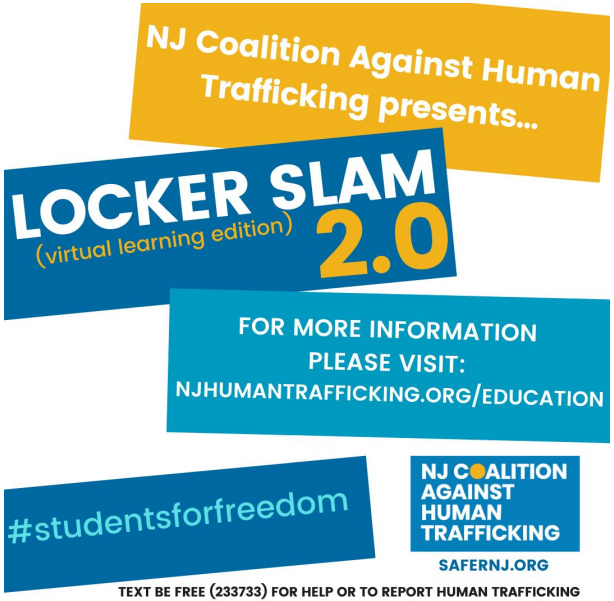
LOCKER SLAM 2.0 TOOLKIT
(VIRTUAL LEARNING EDITION)



#STUDENTSFORFREEDOM

SAFERNJ.ORG

@SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

INTRODUCTION

Educators have always been charged with providing a safe and healthy physical and emotional learning environment; however, distance learning now requires schools to ensure students are safe while learning and communicating online. Across the nation, students have been participating in distance learning due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, students are spending several hours each day in front of computer screens and devices completing school work and communicating with teachers and classmates. Unfortunately, the increases in the amount of screentime during distance learning greatly raises the risks of online exploitation of students by predators who are harnessing the Internet to establish connections with young people via online games, social media, and messaging apps such as Omegle and Kik. As a response, the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking has planned this Virtual Locker Slam. This Toolkit has been designed to assist you in sharing the images on various social media platforms, websites, banners, and signatures; additionally, this presentation and other resources may be useful tools to share with your school community. Please choose what works best for you!

Thank you for joining in our efforts to prevent online grooming by providing educators, students, and parents with a practical understanding of how to identify online threats so that the safety and well-being of all children is secured.

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#STUDENTSFORFREEDOM

@SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ

WHY MUST WE ACT NOW?

During the outbreak of COVID-19, specifically for the period of March through May, the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force received 2,380 reports from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children; this is up from just 760 reports in 2019 during the same time period. **The state of New Jersey reported a 200% increase in cases of online victimization and exploitation as students engaged in distance learning.**[1]

Nationally, The National Center For Missing & Exploited Children experienced a 98.66% increase in online enticement reports between January - September 2020 versus the same time period in 2019. Additionally, NCMEC has experienced a 63.31% increase in CyberTipline reports between January - September 2020 versus the same time period in 2019.[2]

1. Press Release by NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking, "Online exploitation of children in NJ increases by 200% during COVID-19," June 17, 2020. 1

2. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Blog by Brenna O'Donnell July 16, 2020 https://tinyurl.com/y72ef54l.

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#STUDENTSFORFREEDOM

@SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY ONLINE GROOMING?

Online predators look to make connections with children and young people in a virtual environment, whether on social media, messaging apps, or Internet based video games. They seek to prey upon young people who feel isolated, depressed, and are in a vulnerable state. Here are a few examples of how predators manipulate young people:

1. MIRROR LANGUAGE: Posing as a young person, a predator will strike a conversation online and begin with a question. They will respond to a young person with answers that mirror or repeat their response. For example, “My mom left me home alone to do my homework, and I hate doing homework.” The predator will respond, “My mom always leaves me home alone, and I hate doing MY homework.” As the exchange continues the young person begins to feel that this person understands and “gets it”; this is how trust is established. The nature of the conversation is built around a back and forth of repetitive language where the predator matches word for word what the young person is stating throughout their dialogue. The predator will then seek to move the conversation to a different platform such as discord to further the conversation.

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY ONLINE GROOMING?

2. SOCIAL MEDIA: A predator often times will begin contact with a young person by liking and commenting on Instagram, TikTok, or Twitter posts. Eventually the predator will send a DM (direct message) to bring the conversation to the next level. As the messages are exchanged, the predator will use repetitive language to uncover vulnerabilities to exploit over a period of time. The end goal of the predator is to arrange an in person meeting with the young person.

3. VIDEO GAMES: Engaging young people in conversation and dialogue in an online gaming environment while playing games such as Fortnite or Minecraft is a tactic of online predators. For example, predators will focus their questions around technology, “What kind of graphics card do you have?” or “How many CPUs does your computer have?” or “How many frames per second?” The predator will respond with technology that is bigger and better, all leading to the question, “Do you want to play together?” or “I will give you a better graphics card; let’s meet up somewhere.”

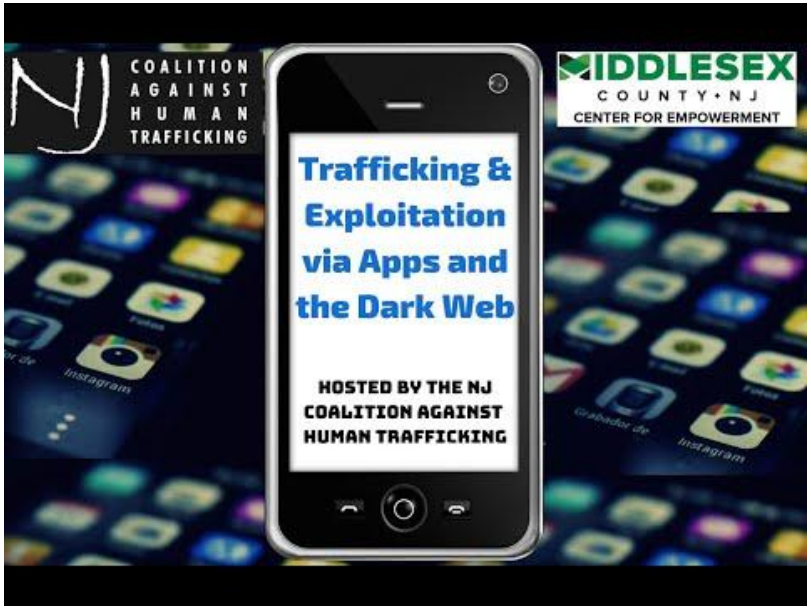
HOW DO WE IDENTIFY ONLINE GROOMING?

4. GIRLS: When a predator approaches a girl, their goal is to make her feel wanted, valued, and pretty. He seeks to prey on vulnerabilities and exploit insecurities. He will try to drive a wedge between the young girl and her friends, family, and interests in the end making her believe that he is the only person in the world that cares for her. Additionally, the predator will attempt to move the conversation to messaging platforms such as Kik or Skout. His primary objective is arrange an in person meeting where the predator will manipulate, coerce, or even use force to exploit the young woman.

5. BOYS: As predators pursue boys, they will use “hooks” in their conversations focusing entirely on “shiny toys” like technology or video games and seek to discuss common interests. Predators tend to move more quickly in their pursuit of boys by asking, “Do you want to come over and play a video game with me?” In most cases, the boy is thinking entirely about the technology and nothing else.

RESOURCES

"The new normal has become distance learning and other forms of virtual communication. This is the virtual playground where children reside and it has given predators the ability to be on the same playground with those children without parents knowing." Lieutenant John Pizzuro of the NJ State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Unit



NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ONLINE PRESENTATION TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION ON APPS AND THE DARK WEB: LT. PIZZURO

SEVEN PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

1. Remind children to only interact online and on gaming apps with people they know and trust in the real world.
2. Let children tell you about what they love about their games and online lives, and allow them to enjoy all that is good about apps, games and online, which makes a conversation about the concerns of online grooming easier to have.
3. Warn children to not accept gaming dollars (E.G. V-bucks for the game "Fortnite") from people they don't know and trust. Predators will later come back and say "now you owe me".
4. Review which location markers are visible on children's devices, and remove any except the essential ones. Consider products to help with this, which can also monitor some - but not all - of your children's activity.

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#STUDENTSFORFREEDOM

 @SaferNJ

 @SaferNJ

 @SaferNJ

 @SaferNJ

SEVEN PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

5. Reduce shame in conversations with children. If they have shared CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) of themselves, they were manipulated in order to do so. Shame is a method traffickers use to further manipulate, so be supportive instead of blaming the child.
6. Make sure you know and your child knows what to do if they find themselves in a exploitation situation, and that there are organizations like NCMEC who can help.
7. Spend "device-free" time with your family to boost everyone's serotonin levels, and help children feel good without needing to get "likes" on social media.

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#STUDENTSFORFREEDOM

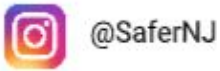
@SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ

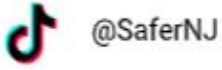
START THE CONVERSATION: VIRTUAL STICKERS

The shared folders contain various virtual stickers that can be used in many different ways to facilitate discussion about online grooming. Here are a few suggestions:

- BANNER STICKERS: Can be attached to Google Classroom or Google Site headers. A second profile banner picture on Facebook, Twitter, or any other social media page. Attach to any learning management system.
- SMALL STICKERS: Attach to an email signature or a profile picture. Additionally, these are perfect for Twitter posts.
- INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK STICKERS: Can be used for Instagram or Facebook posts or stories.

PLEASE USE #STUDENTSFORFREEDOM WHEN POSTING STICKERS









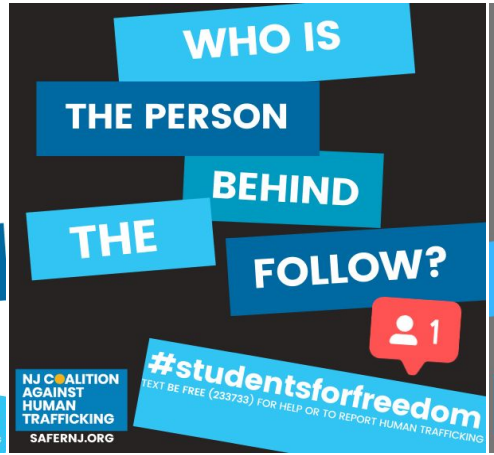
NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

START THE CONVERSATION: VIRTUAL STICKERS

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN LOCKER SLAM 2.0









PLEASE USE #STUDENTSFORFREEDOM WHEN POSTING STICKERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ @SaferNJ

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING