



March 19, 2020

We hope this message finds you doing well, taking good care of yourself, your family and friends, and your community as best you can during this unprecedented and unnerving time.

Like you, the team at Critical Exposure (CE) is paying close attention to the COVID-19 crisis. The evolving nature of the pandemic means that we're making daily – if not hourly – assessments and decisions based on the directives and recommendations that we're receiving from local government officials and public health authorities. Here's how we're responding:

We're prioritizing the safety of CE staff and young people by following the example of DC Public Schools by closing our offices and program space through March 31st. We'll revisit (and likely extend) our decision to remain closed.

We're committed to supporting our staff, who are all working remotely, and we're figuring out the best ways to support both their work and their overall wellness during this time of mental, emotional, physical, and financial stress.

We're committed to supporting the young people who feel that CE is family. CE staff are reaching out to youth in our programs as well as alumni to learn how we can best support them during this time. This includes the possibility of helping with groceries, communicating frequently to reduce feelings of isolation, and sharing resources, such as [free meals](#), [free access to wifi](#), and help with cell phone bills. If you know of resources that we can pass on, we'd love to share them with young people.

We're committed to continuing our programs. Because our programs are designed for in-person engagement, our program team is taking steps to pivot towards online group facilitation. This involves (1) assessing how easily CE young people can access online programming (i.e. internet access, home environment, current knowledge of certain platforms) and (2) adapting our trainings for online facilitation so that we can create a meaningful virtual space. We want to ensure that we're not inadvertently perpetuating technology inequities during this redesign.

One of CE's partners recently highlighted that **"the coronavirus threat glaringly exposes and exacerbates deep social, political, and economic inequities we already know exist."** This shows up in who can work and learn remotely; who can keep their jobs; who has paid sick leave; and who can access food, health care, and even information on the latest developments with COVID-19. While doing all we can to care for ourselves and each other in this extraordinary moment, we must also be ready to continue equipping DC youth of color to lead the fight for justice and equity, for the sake of their lives, their families, their schools, and their communities.

Thank you for being an important part of CE's community. We wish you good health in the days ahead. If you need to reach us, please email us at contactus@criticalexposure.org.

Stay safe, stay hopeful, and stay connected,

Adam Levner
Executive Director and Co-Founder