

Looking after your mental health and wellbeing during Coronavirus Information for Children and Young People – Dec 2020

Websites

Just Talk is a multi-agency campaign, steered by young people and coordinated by the Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council. The website hosts helpful resources about current issues, and e-learning that you can complete. The site is updated frequently, so keep checking back.

<https://www.justtalkherts.org/>

Health for Kids / Teens cover subjects that promote a healthy body and mind. All the content has been produced by school nurses, other health and wellbeing experts, and most importantly young people.

Ages 11-19 <https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire/>

Primary age <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/> (There's also a section for parents and carers)

Apps / National websites

There are several apps to support mental health and Wellbeing. You are responsible for ensuring apps are appropriate for your age and needs.

You may consider the ThinkNinja app: As a direct response to the COVID-19 situation, Healios have updated ThinkNinja with specific COVID-19 content. This will bring self-help knowledge and skills to children and young people (10-18 years old) who may be experiencing increased anxiety and stress during the current situation.

<https://www.healios.org.uk/services/thinkninja1>

Young Minds is the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. On this web page you will find lots of information about how to look after your mental health at this time <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Information, advice and guidance

Herts Mind Network have a **helpline** for children and young people aged 10-17. The helpline provides a safe, non-judgemental space to talk to a Young People Advisor or Mentor who will provide emotional support, advice and information and discuss coping strategies. For opening hours and more information please visit the website

<https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/young-peoples-helpline>. The helpline number is **01923 256391** and it is available every day over the holidays apart from 25th – 29th December, and 1st January. Herts Mind Network also have a Young People's online group for those over 15. You can find out more here: <https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/young-peoples-online-group>

Chat Health is a **text messaging service** for all secondary school aged pupils in Hertfordshire. It is a confidential service and available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (open throughout the holidays every day apart from bank holidays). Young people can message for advice on all kinds of health issues such as sexual health, emotional health and wellbeing, bullying, healthy eating and any general health concerns. The text number is: **07480 635050**. Secondary school pupils can also follow the School Nurse Team on Instagram at **teenhealth.hct**.

Kooth is an online counselling service for anyone aged 10-25 in Hertfordshire. You can access a **chat / messenger** service, discussion boards, goal setting tools and a journal and a magazine. The website is moderated by trained professionals. You need to register but it is anonymous. <https://www.kooth.com/>

YCH Services for Young People provides youth work, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and support for young people. You can contact a Youth Worker or Personal Adviser for one to one and project groupwork support by calling **0300 123 7538**, emailing yc@hertfordshire.gov.uk or visit <https://www.ychertfordshire.org/>

Further support

If you are experiencing mental health difficulties that are significantly interfering with your ability to do the things you normally do, please contact (or ask your parents or carers to) Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust Single Point of Access **0800 6444 101**. This line is open 24/7 and can direct your enquiry to a number of specialist services depending on your needs.

The Wellbeing Service offers short term support to people that are 16 or over with mild to moderate mental health issues such as depression and anxiety (so you can let your parents or carers know about it too). You can visit <https://www.northsesxiapt.nhs.uk/hertfordshire> for more information about the service and to self-refer.

There are four community **counselling** organisations covering Hertfordshire:

YCT (East and North Herts) http://www.yctsupport.com/ Telephone 01279 414 090	Youth Talk (St Albans) http://youthtalk.org.uk/ Telephone 01727 868684
Rephael House (Welwyn and Hatfield) https://www.rephaelhouse.org.uk/ Telephone 020 8440 9144	Signpost (Watford and Hemel areas) http://signpostcounselling.co.uk/ Telephone 01923 239495

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The School Nursing Team can provide some support around emotional difficulties and parents can refer directly from this page: <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/forms/school-nursing-form.asp> You can read more about the School Nursing Team here: <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing/>

Already working with a Service?

If you are currently receiving support from a service or have been recently discharged, you can contact the service if you are struggling with your mental health. Most have a duty line which you can find out by looking on a letter they have sent you.

Need help now?

If you, a friend or family member are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call: **0800 6444 101**. This line is open 24/7. If you need physical health treatment in an emergency go to your nearest Accident and Emergency department or call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

Childline: If you're under 19 you can confidentially call, email or chat online about any problem big or small Freephone 24h helpline: **0800 1111**

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. If you need urgent help **text YM to 85258**