

COVID-19 NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT



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PURPOSE

During a time of uncertainty and social distancing, many of us are wondering how to be a good virtual neighbor. As COVID-19 continues to impact how we communicate and carry out our daily routines, it's important to stay connected and identify ways to help our neighbors in need.

This toolkit will assist neighborhoods with resources to help you and your neighbors take care of one another during this difficult time. The City of Plano is sharing ways to stay connected, how to help the most vulnerable and creative ways to keep kids entertained!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW DO I START?	4
CHECK IN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS	4
CONNECT DIGITALLY	4
VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	4
NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES	5
CHALK YOUR WALK AND KINDNESS ROCKS	5
LAWN GAMES	5
PARTY ON YOUR STREET	5
VIRTUAL BLOCK PARTY	5
DRIVE-BY CONCERT	6
LITTLE FREE PANTRIES	6
SCAVENGER HUNTS	6
ENCOURAGEMENT LETTERS	6
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	7
I CAN HELP CARD	7
SAMPLE NEIGHBOR INVITATION	8

HOW DO I START?

CHECK IN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Stay connected and identify ways to help neighbors in need

- Check in by email or phone
- Use the “I Can Help” connect card found on page 6. Cards can be filled out by volunteers who are available to help their neighbors with various duties
- When taking a walk, practice social distancing but feel free to greet or spark a conversation with neighbors you see along your walk



CONNECT DIGITALLY

The easiest way to connect with neighbors is with technology:

- Use social platforms, to check in on how everyone is doing and keep them updated on current events and neighborhood information
- Browse Nextdoor Groups and the new Help Map which aids neighbors in creating organized help groups to assist those in need
- Send out an email to your neighbors introducing yourself and offering ways you can help
- Keep neighbors engaged by hosting: a virtual trivia night, an online book club, an online happy hour or a virtual group cooking class
- Publish frequent newsletters to keep neighbors up-to-date and engaged



VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Consider making a charitable donation or volunteer to local organizations dealing with COVID 19 such as:

- Food banks
- Healthcare organizations
- Small businesses



NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES



CHALK YOUR WALK AND KINDNESS ROCKS

Invite your neighbors to bring joy and creativity to your neighborhood

- Create an Art Walk challenge. Encourage families to bring chalk during their walks to draw different masterpieces and notes along the way
- Paint rocks with kind words or images and scatter them around your neighborhood for everyone to see when they take a walk



LAWN GAMES

Make jumbo playing cards or game boards from cardboard and play across the street or yard with neighbors

- Examples include: Uno, Go Fish, checkers and tic tac toe. It may not be perfect but with some creativity this can be a great way to relieve boredom



PARTY ON YOUR STREET

Bring neighbors together by inviting them to have dinner on the front lawn at the same time on a specific day

- Neighbors should stay in their front yards and bring their own tables, chairs and food



VIRTUAL BLOCK PARTY

Host a Virtual Block Party by using video online portals and play multi-play-er online games, a virtual trivia night, an online book club, an online happy hour, or a virtual group cooking class

- Platforms such as Skype, Zoom, and House Party App can facilitate virtual block parties



NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

DRIVE-BY CONCERT

By following distancing rules and city ordinances neighborhoods can have a drive by concert

- You can email editor@planomagazine.com to have a local artist perform at your neighborhood
- Advertise your concert by encouraging neighbors to bring out their blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the music!



LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

If your neighborhood has a Free Little Library, turn it into a Little Free Pantry. If not, create one!

- Neighborhoods are transforming their neighborhood libraries to temporary food banks
- Consider implementing one in your neighborhood or contributing to a little pantry [here](#)



SCAVENGER HUNTS

Get your neighbors up and active by facilitating fun games:

- Begin a Scavenger Hunt in your neighborhood by getting neighbors to place a unique item that can be seen from the front sidewalk
- Create Virtual Hunt Cards so neighbors know what to look for. This is a great way to keep kids entertained and active!



ENCOURAGEMENT LETTERS

Due to restrictions on visitors in nursing homes, seniors in your community need encouragement now more than ever.

- Have kids in your neighborhood write letters of encouragement or draw pictures for seniors in your neighborhood or nearby assisted living facilities
- Make sure to contact the facility where you will be sending the letters and wipe down letters before you send them



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HI, NEIGHBOR!



loveplano
We're in this together.

Are you self-isolating due to COVID-19? Let's connect!

I will take every precaution to ensure your well-being. I will stay 6 feet away from you and leave items on your doorstep.

My name is

I live at

My phone number is

My email address is

I can help with:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up groceries | <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up urgent errands/supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mail package/pick-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Available in English, Spanish and simple Chinese. For copies, please email
BEST@plano.gov

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SAMPLE NEIGHBOR INVITATION

Dear [NAME],

Hello, from [NAME] at [ADDRESS]. We have lived a [Neighborhood] since [YEAR] but we don't know all of you. Given these uncertain times, we thought this would be a good time to change that!

Many of us have our own support systems, families, friends and communities, who we will help and be helped by in challenging times. However, while some of us have support networks in this neighborhood, others do not. We envision a network that could help with the following things:

- Sharing supplies (i.e., medicine, food, cleaning products) if there are shortages
- Bringing pre-cooked meals for families in where a main caregiver is sick.
- Checking in on elderly residents or those who are in high-risk groups and do not live with a caregiver.
- Assisting with minor DIY tasks if it's difficult to get help.
- Assisting with teaching children while schools are closed

In order to gauge interest in this idea and help build this network, we would be grateful if you could email [NAME] at [EMAIL ADDRESS] the following information:

1. What is your address?
2. What is your name and who else lives in your house? If you're comfortable sharing.
3. Are you interested in volunteering?
4. If you are interested, what is your contact number?
5. Do you use social media? What method is best to contact you?
6. If not social media, which means of communication would you prefer?
7. Do you have any particular needs or COVID-19 risk factors that the network could help address?
8. Do you have any skills or anything else you could bring to the network?

Thank you. We look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

[Neighborhood Leader]