

Family Guide to Home Firearm Safety During COVID-19



The COVID-19 public health emergency presents important safety considerations for firearms in the home. Current social distancing and stay at home measures may mean that children and teens have greater exposure to firearms present in the home. COVID-19 also presents new challenges for teens struggling with depression or other mental health issues, which may increase the risk of firearm injury. Learn the facts about firearm safety and measures you can take to keep your family safe.

**1 in 3 U.S. homes
with children under 18
has a firearm.¹**

43% of these homes
have an unlocked firearm.¹



**Over 54,000 children and
youth* are injured or killed
by firearms each year.³**

That equals 148 children
or youth a day.³

**In 2018, 48% of all youth
suicides involved a firearm.³**

**3 in 4 children age 5 to 14
know where firearms are
kept in their home.²**

**Unintentional shootings
account for 15% of all
firearm deaths in
children under 15.³**

Children as young as 3 years old
are strong enough to fire a handgun.⁴

**In 2 out of 3
cases when a
child or youth
used a family
member's
firearm to
commit suicide,
the firearm was
kept unlocked.⁵**



What are safe storage options?



If there are guns in your home, make sure all guns are stored unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked separately.

Take Apart Firearm.



Lock Box.

Store ammunition separately. Only adults should have access.

amazon.com and
Dick's Sporting Goods
(\$20-\$100+)



Cable Lock.

Do not install around the trigger.

May be available free from local police.

amazon.com (\$7-\$20)



Gun Safe.

Store ammunition separately.

The Home Depot
(\$80+)



Trigger Lock.

Do not use on a loaded gun.

amazon.com (\$6-\$35)



If you are in crisis, or know someone who is struggling or in a crisis:

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at
1-800-273-8255 OR text **HOME** to **741741** to
text with a crisis counselor.

Recognizing that not all stores are open due to COVID-19, many of these safe storage options are available through on-line delivery or curbside pick-up.



injurycenter.umich.edu

UMInjuryCenter@umich.edu



childfirearmsafety.org

facts-team@umich.edu

Sources

1. Schuster, M. A., Franke, T. M., Bastian, A. M., Sor, S., & Halfon, N. (2000). Firearm storage patterns in US homes with children. *American Journal of Public Health*, 90(4), 588-594. 2. Baxley, F., & Miller, M. (2006). Parental misperceptions about children and firearms. *Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine*, 160(5), 542-547. 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2018) [accessed April 2020]. Available from URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>. 4. Naureckas, S. M., Galanter, C., Naureckas, E. T., Donovan, M., & Christoffel, K. K. (1995). Children's and women's ability to fire handguns. *Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine*, 149(12), 1318-1322. 5. SPRC & Harvard Injury Control Center. (2007). Youth suicide: Findings from a pilot for the National Violent Death Reporting System. Accessed Dec 2014 from <http://www.sprc.org/sites/sprc.org/files/library/YouthSuicideFactSheet.pdf>

IMAGES: <https://depositphotos.com/10871510/stock-photo-handgun-broken-down.html>; <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-purpose-of-field-stripping-a-gun>; https://www.amazon.com/Cable-Lock-Key-California/dp/B01H459N7E/ref=sr_1_15?dchild=1&keywords=cable+lock+gun&qid=1587480923&sr=8-15; https://www.amazon.com/Trigger-Combination-Pistol-Rifles-Shotguns/dp/B07853P958/ref=lp_4200821_1_4?pf_rd_p=1587389814&pf_rd_r=14; https://www.amazon.com/PSDC-Caretaker-Metal-Lockable-Security/dp/B01H7M9KWW/ref=sr_1_10?dchild=1&keywords=gun+lock+box&qid=1588091927&sr=8-10; <https://www.dicksportinggoods.com/pl/stack-on-drawer-safe-with-electronic-lock-15skoudrwrwthlclgux/15skoudrwrwthlclgux>; <https://www.homedepot.com/p/AdirOffice-Quick-Access-Digital-Pistol-Gun-Safe-Black-671-200-BLK/307952652>