A guided activity workbook for South Africa’s youth, families, teachers and caregivers, based on 14th Ed, “My Pandemic Story”.

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Cover design: Gabriel Sieff 2020
Preface to the 2020 Guided Activity Workbook: South Africa

Children, families, and whole populations in over 200 nations are facing two mental health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. One is that millions of mostly older people they love are getting sick, and many are dying.

The second mental health challenge is the psychological distress related to school closures, confinement and the loss of income. The impact of the pandemic has exposed and deepened the stark reality of poverty and inequality in South Africa and other developing countries, leaving thousands of people hungry and desperate.

The experience of isolation as a result of the pandemic has resulted in increased patterns of domestic violence and hunger for many people, placing enormous physical and psychological demands on children and their families.

The challenge and burden in South Africa and all over the world, due to the loss of both lives and livelihood, is unprecedented. Children and their families are facing various degrees of trauma. We know that children and youth who are hungry, stressed, anxious and afraid cannot learn effectively. The psychosocial impact as a result of COVID-19 is further compounded by the structural and physical violence endemic to South African society. More than ever before, psychosocial support is extremely important, especially in communities that face multiple and consistent crises.

This guided activity workbook is a small step in that direction.

While the world’s pandemic scientists search for better tests, treatments, cures and vaccines, parents, teachers and caregivers everywhere have the opportunity to improve their children’s knowledge and understanding through the use of this workbook.

Unaccustomed as adults are in helping children face painful truths, we must do just that. With small children we can begin with small doses of truth. We need the spread of truth from government, school and family sources in order to inspire trust in children and help build mental wellbeing. Children will usually be the least physically affected by the new virus however they will suffer mentally as they lose loved ones, especially older family members. Adults will have to help their children grieve while growing up. Some children will grow up bereaving the loss of younger siblings. That is not an easy psychological task.

This simple and straightforward guide encourages learning, safety, and creative expression. In this way it strengthens mental health and wellbeing.

Through the use of this workbook we hope that our children will become curious, and informed - not only about their own lives but also about the health and wellbeing of their fellow South Africans, and more broadly, about the health of the planet.

Gilbert Kliman, M.D., Medical Director, The Children’s Psychological Health Center, Inc.

Adapted by the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) for the South African context.
13 August 2020: Information About COVID-19 Pandemic

Number of countries reporting that people have the virus: 213

Number of confirmed cases (people known to have the virus): 20,876,201

Number of people in the world who have died from the virus: 748,392

Number of people in the world who have recovered: 13,767,526

Number of people in South Africa known to have the virus: 569 000

Number of people in South Africa who have died from the virus: 11 010

Number of people in South Africa who have recovered: 432 000

Number of people in the Western Cape known to have the virus: 99 074

Number of people in the Western Cape known to have died from the virus: 3482

Number of people in the Western Cape known to have recovered: 88 734
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This book derives from evidence-based experience that has helped strengthen the mental health of children, including disaster victims. Its purpose is to give networks of children and their adult helpers ways to guide children’s mental and emotional strength, promoting healthy, active coping skills.

You are part of a world, a nation and society that cares greatly about its children and their families. The 2020 pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has created one of the greatest challenges in history for all people on the planet. Responding to this challenge by working together may save hundreds of thousands of lives and at the same time help create lasting social good. As someone who works with children, it is your privilege to try to help them connect with you at a time of great importance in their lives. You may help change a stressful, possibly traumatic situation into a more constructive learning and coping experience, promoting trust, knowledge and emotional strength in the midst of disaster and confusion. Getting mentally active by speaking about painful facts and memories, and helping young people to cope is an important step. Our focus is to build strength for the future without either dwelling on, or forgetting the suffering. Remembering, developing curiosity, learning and planning are needed for children to help build a better tomorrow.

This workbook is to help give “psychological first aid” right now. When you engage with children by allowing them to speak openly and honestly you will help them find their voice. Your presence, thinking and feeling together with the children can help them feel cherished and safer. The social glue provided by a family member, teacher, caring elder, friend, older student or social worker helps protect a child or any person from feeling helpless and overwhelmed. Here are some guidelines to help you create a supportive process if you are guiding a child or a group of children in the use of this book.

**Giving children psychological “Hands” with which to work in a crisis**

The value of active coping is well known. Helplessness is one of the worst parts of some emergencies. During times of disaster or community distress like earthquakes, floods, droughts or pandemics children do better when they are given psychological “H.A.N.D.S.“. The term “giving children psychological hands” is a short way of saying children must be helped to “Honestly communicate, Actively cope, Network with peers and adults, in a Developmentally Specific way.” This workbook has been designed by parents and mental health professionals to help children have “hands”, to develop a sense of being in some control of their own safety in the face of a large crisis.
We are taking lessons from a history of disasters and how to improve children’s mental health. In schools that encouraged immediate adult-led discussion of the crisis, the children had measurably better signs of behavioral health than those in schools that avoided adult-led discussion. Learning from research during and after large-scale disasters, an adult-guided personal life history book approach for children and youth (www.childrenspsychologicalhealthcenter.org) was tested and found to be measurably effective. It has been useful for thousands of children and youth all over the world in foster care placements; wars; terror attacks; floods; storms; family crises as well as national crises. Uses have included moving from birth family to foster family; large fires; hurricanes; earthquakes; tsunamis; tropical storms and wars.

Like other disasters, the novel coronavirus pneumonia (officially called “COVID-19”) pandemic can be a totally negative experience, creating only loss, fear and doubt or it can become a manageable developmental event for children and youth, stimulating learning, understanding and growth. Children and adolescents can benefit from a network of organized and thoughtful helpers at this time to give them strength to meet their personal, family and even national challenges. The nation and much of the world depend on all of us working together and thinking about how children, families, agencies, and governments can cooperate in this and other large crises. All of our futures improve when we, and our children work thoughtfully together with these issues. The pandemic is an opportunity for the world to cooperate on behalf of future generations.

This workbook is designed to help organize thoughts and emotions, and strengthen both you and the children you know, love and care for.

**Getting started**

This book (Book 2) is designed for youth in Grades 8-10 and can be used in different ways: they can colour in the pictures, draw their own pictures, talk about their experiences and listen to parts of it while you read it with them. It will help if you read the whole book yourself first before presenting it to the young person you are working with. If they choose to work through it on their own, encourage them to finish working on the book over a month or two. But never force them to face a section of the book against their will. Allow them to select which parts of the book to work with first. Let them stop using the book for a time whenever they want, even though the section may not have been completed. Those who cannot or will not work with you on some parts of the book should have their resistance respected. Especially try to help them face and dwell on POSITIVE events, memories, consoling and loving times, and not just frightening, negative and sad ones. This book belongs to the learner. It is their book and they should be allowed to take the book home to continue working through it either on their own or with an older person/people whom they trust and feel comfortable with.
Be prepared to work for only a few minutes to half an hour at a time at first with any child or group of children. Be flexible. Working on this book for short periods may usefully take several weeks or months. The entire book does not have to be completed for the book to help. Some parts may not be relevant to every person’s situation. Let them choose and help direct you about which sections to work on first. Don’t insist on reading any sections that they do not want to read. They may gain strength later to come back to more emotionally difficult parts.

If the learner is reluctant to talk, encourage them to do a lot of colouring and drawing. You may choose to read some of the book to them, or with them. If sections are above their understanding, use words or examples they can relate to so that you are helping them to learn and understand new words and concepts. Act as an interested reporter-secretary, trying to draw them out while giving encouragement. If you are writing for them, write down exactly what they have to say. Take your time – and encourage them to take their time. Don’t insist on them answering. If you are in a situation in which there are larger groups of children of different ages, do not exclude younger children from the work that the older children are doing on this book. For younger children, keep their time and dose of participation and emotion small, just as a medicine’s dose should be small for a small child. “Pediatric doses” of unpleasant facts are needed, even about people the child knows who are sick or have died. Withholding the facts keeps the child from trusting you.

One of the objectives of this workbook for learners in Grades 8-10 is to encourage them to explore topics related to health and the sciences. Encourage ongoing discovery, research and exploration through finding articles and pictures in newspapers and magazines or on the Internet. Use the extra pages provided at the back of the book for articles, drawings and writing. Additional pages can also be attached to this book. Children often work on the book on and off over weeks and sometimes even months. It becomes a valuable scrapbook of information from many sources.

Older children might want to work on the book on their own. But they will still benefit from a teacher, parent, aunt, grandparent, student or other caring adult tuning in, showing an interest in how they are thinking and feeling about the work in this book. Children of all ages should be regularly offered adult assistance. Be available to serve as a resource for your learner or child and help them find any information and answers. Try hard to keep them in touch with a network of people who know them or create a school-based network of learners and teachers interested in the children’s lives. Emphasize scientific facts about the virus, about tests, medicines, antibodies and vaccines, especially for older children. Help the child understand what doctors and scientists are learning about to end the pandemic. Explain how social distancing and the wearing of masks are proven ways to reduce the spread of infections. Many children don’t understand important information such as why they must wear masks and maintain
social distancing. The reasons we wear masks is to stop the spread of infections and deaths. It is extremely important that everyone understands this.

**Use of illustrations as a coloring book, and how they help**

There are a few drawings in the book, which can be used to colour in. They are useful for everyone including adults, families, teenagers and children in a variety of ways to help strengthen normal coping during or after trauma. Children who have a preference for visual as opposed to spoken communication can draw their own pictures. The pictures can be used as starting points for discussions about the events.

Adults and children who are overwhelmed with flashbacks, memories, anxiety, who startle easily, have insomnia or nightmares may find that the process of storytelling, writing and drawing is more calming than just trying to tough it out. They might choose to draw pictures furthest from their own experience, and gradually work up to those closest.

Family members can work together, sometimes each colouring or drawing a portion of a picture or making a separate one. Shared colouring may help everyone feel emotional strength about the images, help them take control, feel calmer and recognize their feelings. The pictures already in the book, or those that are drawn by the learner can also be used as topics for discussion. This can be an aid in remembering for those who remain emotionally numb, or have some trouble remembering what they experienced. For example, a parent or teacher could ask, “What are you feeling now?” or “What is happening in this picture?” People often express their own feelings by describing what someone else is feeling.

The illustrations can also be used as a mastery-promoting activity by asking children to draw a picture showing what they or their family can do differently, or what the picture would look like when the pandemic is over. Teachers can use My South African Pandemic Story in a classroom setting, with children working individually or in small groups. This was found to be a very effective way to support group togetherness and reduce children’s anxieties after hurricanes and long periods of displacement/when people lost their homes. Social support from a group helps children and adults cope with catastrophes.

**The absence of adult leadership, absence of adult initiation of discussion and absence of social support has been shown to be harmful in crisis situations.** This type of workbook was found to be calming to school children and measurably improved their mental health following large scale disasters.

**Adult helpers can benefit from this book**

This workbook is designed to help both individuals and groups that have suffered stress
from the COVID-19 pandemic. The adult who is helping the child may also be burdened or even traumatized by some of the same events that affect the child or by having to deal with other sick or psychologically distressed people. Adults who have been traumatized in a large scale pandemic may find this book helpful because it offers a way of helping children cope in a structured manner, rather than having to invent something new. You can also use sections of it for writing about yourself. You may find that drawing or colouring the scenes may help you become calmer or help you to remember your experiences and master them. It is worth remembering that no matter how mature and strong, anyone can be emotionally stressed. But even the most traumatized people can grow through writing their history and through helping children.

**Use by Mental Health Professionals**

Social workers, therapists and university students can use *My South African Pandemic Story* during individual, family or group sessions to supplement other treatment or psychosocial support for depressive, anxious or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder patients when the condition is due to a pandemic, isolation, or displacement of a child’s living arrangements.

More information is available online at
http://www.childrenspsychologicalhealthcenter.org/
About trauma

What is a trauma? It is any harmful event or experience that causes a person severe stress and very upset feelings that last for a month or more, without the person getting stronger. Living in a pandemic can be a trauma. However positive changes can come out of the experiences people have during such a challenging time. Many people get stronger rather than weaker from facing their problems. Trauma happens at one time or another to almost everyone in their lives. Trauma can occur from being displaced in a natural disaster, from a severe injury to oneself or an injury or death in the family. Trauma can come from being in a car crash or knowing someone who was in a taxi crash. Some of the worst traumas are very personal, like abuse, domestic or gender based violence, severe beatings, terrible fights, serious illnesses, extreme hunger or wartime events. The list of causes could go on forever, but the results of very different traumas are surprisingly similar. (See the COVID-19 Checklist at the end of this book showing problems and symptoms that may occur and a way to follow progress).

Many people recover from a terrible event without long lasting effects. The time frame of traumatic reactions varies a lot. Sometimes children and young adults get frightened, upset or worried immediately after the event, but many get disturbed days or months later. Some have trouble sleeping or have bad dreams. They may be afraid to go to school, or have headaches, stomachaches or other problems because they are so worried. They might not even know what they are worried about. They may have trouble remembering what happened, or sometimes remember bad things that they would rather not think about at all. They might be afraid. They might have no feelings at all, becoming emotionally numb. They might not be able to pay attention or learn. Unwanted thoughts, avoidance of memories, and anxious behaviors are three categories of problems in posttraumatic stress disorder.

What are some things that help after a disaster such as the COVID-19 Pandemic?

A caring social network is vital for all children and adolescents. It helps to know there are people who can help. Even though you may have lost loved ones, other caring adults can help. The network may be siblings, friends, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours, teachers or therapists. Talking to trusted helpers and friends and writing about your feelings can help you feel better. Reading can also help you learn more about what to do to be safe.
A message for you, the learner
Using this book may help you to talk to others, and it may help you in other ways. By writing down or drawing pictures about what you remember, what you think about and what you are feeling, you can be a witness to history. You’ll create your own personal record of what happened, and in so doing you will feel and become mentally stronger.

If you can use this book by yourself, or with the help of a parent or teacher, you can keep on learning more. And maybe you could help others too if you share what you learn. Look through this book and begin wherever you want. Fill in as many of the blank spaces as you can. Ask for help if you need it to understand the questions or to write down the answers. Look up the meaning of words you don’t understand by using a dictionary or by finding the meaning on the Internet. This will help build your vocabulary. Try drawing pictures or coloring in the pictures that are already in this book. You will find some empty pages at the back of the book, which you can use if you need extra room to write, or for photos or drawings. Add extra pages to the book by stapling or clipping them to the back cover of the book. Take your time. If you want, you can skip or change sections. Come back at another time to anything that makes you too upset, or to anything you would like to think more about.

Try not to dwell on upsetting parts. Keep in mind that the happy memories of the past and positive events of the present and future are very important to write about. Remember, you should definitely talk to a grownup if you become upset or worried.

Some facts about the pandemic
In December 2019, an outbreak of COVID-19 occurred in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and later spread to other provinces and cities in China. It then spread to other countries around the world. Scientists who study viruses with electron microscopes have found the virus came from an animal, probably a bat, in Wuhan China. Within three months from the start of the pandemic, more than five hundred thousand people became sick. Much smaller numbers died. A large number of people went to hospitals for treatment. Local hospitals in China, Japan, Iran, South Korea, Italy and other countries became overcrowded with patients who had difficulty breathing. Millions throughout the world were getting sick and hundreds of thousands died. Many patients had to choose self-care and self-isolation. New hospitals were rapidly built and others were expanded all over the world. Many health workers were suddenly overburdened with the risk of infection because they did not, and in some cases still do not have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE).
The pandemic has disrupted many nations and millions of people's daily lives in different ways: loss of jobs and income, lockdown, school closures, splitting up families, hunger, school closures, shortage of masks and panic about the disease. There have been constant news reports about the increasing spread or new waves of infections and deaths. Many people have lost loved ones and friends.

Long distance travel was restricted. Many schools around the world were closed. Many universities were closed too, and started to teach classes online. Sports events were cancelled or held without fans in the stadiums.

Many people have lost jobs and thousands of South Africans are hungry. All of these changes are difficult to deal with, and we will be able to deal with them only with help from families, friends, teachers and local and national governments.

Scientists have taken the lead, advising governments around the world how to reduce the spread, how to develop vaccines and treatments and how to use the country’s resources to prevent further deaths and financial hardships.

This pandemic is one of the most serious challenges in world history. Our young people must become educated and be part of the solution to this challenge. Fortunately, the youngest people are likely to be healthy even if the virus reaches them. All the latest research shows that children (especially those who are generally healthy) are not affected as much as adults, and that if children contract the virus, the majority will have mild symptoms, will not need to be hospitalized and will recover fully. But they have to be very careful not to spread the virus to their older family members and neighbours. It is the very oldest people and those who are already sick with other diseases that are likely to need medical care and are most likely to die. People over 60 or 70 years of age are very vulnerable to this pandemic. Nursing homes and senior centers are places where many people have died. Even young smokers and adults with diabetes, TB, HIV or high blood pressure are often victims.

Tens of thousands of medical workers have volunteered to help during the pandemic. Drivers, construction workers, electricians and engineers threw themselves into the construction of new hospitals and enlarging existing hospitals. Civil servants, community workers, neighbourhood committees, police, teachers, psychosocial counselors and therapists, volunteers and others have all given a helping hand to provide support for those affected by the pandemic and to provide the daily necessities of the affected people.

Many people from all over world donate money, goods and medical aid supplies for the infected areas. Some companies directly sent helicopters to deliver huge quantities of medical supplies to the most needed areas. The problem is an international one. Good
news: it appears that the number of new cases in some countries is falling, which shows the success of health measures that were taken, such as isolation.

**More facts about the pandemic of 2019-2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious worldwide danger. We have to learn a lot more about it, find ways to prevent the virus from spreading further and find a cure for the illness. It is now in more than 200 countries throughout the world. The pandemic started in December 2019. COVID-19 makes people sick in their whole bodies but especially in their blood and lungs. It makes it hard for people to breathe.

The virus started in animals and jumped to human beings. Then human beings spread it to each other. People without symptoms (asymptomatic) or with symptoms that seem like just a cold or mild flu can also spread the virus. Droplets from sneezing, coughing, laughing and singing spread the virus from person to person, which is why in South Africa (and in other countries) it is compulsory to wear masks when we leave our homes.

The virus is quiet for a while in each person. That is called “the incubation period”. The incubation period lasts for 1-14 days. Based on the cases under treatment, most patients get better. Probably less than 100 people die out of every 1000 people who get sick enough to go to the hospital. Those who die are usually elderly, are already sick or have underlying health conditions (comorbidities) such as TB, HIV, diabetes or hypertension, and those who need help from breathing machines called “ventilators”. Children usually survive, but they can spread the virus to other people.

A study by the University of the Witwatersrand showed that approximately one-third of South Africans suffer from hypertension. South Africa has the highest prevalence of hypertension in southern Africa. In addition, over 4.5-million people in South Africa have diabetes and over 70% of women and 40% of men are overweight or obese. All these factors are considered to be comorbidities in the COVID-19 pandemic and place South Africa at a higher risk than many other countries around the world.

In January, February and March 2020, governments all over the world responded to the growing number of people affected with COVID-19 by asking people not to travel and to stay at home if they became sick. At first people were asked not to go to work or school if they were sick. Then, when infections increased, many schools were closed for months at a time. This is still happening and in some places infections are continuing to spread as we write in June 2020.
The pandemic and lockdown in South Africa

The South Africa government responded swiftly to the global pandemic.


On the 15 March President Ramaphosa announced that the country would go into a hard lockdown for 21 days, starting at 12.00 a.m. on Thursday, 20 March. Then on the 9 April, the president announced that the lockdown would be extended until the end of April. The lockdown measures, which were enforced by police and the army in some areas, stated that South Africans were not permitted to leave their homes except to seek medicine or medical care, to buy food and supplies or collect a social grant. The sale of alcohol and cigarettes was prohibited.

From Wednesday 18 March all schools in South Africa were closed. While learning material was made available online, on the radio and on television channels, thousands of learners were not able to continue with their school work at home as the majority of learners in South Africa do not having access to data, stable connectivity or the necessary devices to access online learning. The impact of the lockdown has been severely felt in disadvantaged communities, with the realities of poverty and inequality becoming ever more stark. Many children and their families have experienced severe hunger. In the Western Cape, the Education Department (WCED) normally feeds approximately 485 000 learners daily when schools are open through the national feeding scheme. Although during lockdown, Emergency Feeding Schemes were put in place, these did not always work according to plan. Families therefore had to step in to provide food. This has created an enormous burden for them, as many were not earning an income during lockdown. Food security became one of the major challenges for many South Africans.

In April 2020 President Ramaphosa announced the “Risk Adjusted Strategy” for a phased reopening of the economy. He said the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) would determine the appropriate lockdown level based on how fast the coronavirus had spread and the capacity of the country’s healthcare system. Wearing of masks became compulsory when leaving home.

On the 19 May 2020, the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, MP, announced that schools would re-open for Grades 7 and 12 on 1 June 2020. It was mandatory for
schools to implement health and safety measures including social distancing, thorough cleaning of surfaces and classrooms, hand sanitizing and frequent washing, wearing of masks, daily screening and taking of temperatures. A “trimmed curriculum” was prepared according to a “school recovery plan”. Plans for the remaining grades were announced in June. Concessions were made for teachers and learners with comorbidities, and a special letter requesting that these individuals should stay at home, had to be submitted to the WCED. By the 1 June, it was found that many schools were not ready to receive learners, as they had not been given the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE). School reopening was therefore postponed for a further week.

Saving lives in South Africa has come at an enormous cost to the economy. The National Treasury estimated that the country could lose up to seven million jobs if the economy was not allowed to reopen – pushing the unemployment rate from 27% to over 50%. For this reason, from the 1 June 2020 the country was moved to Lockdown Level 3.

One of the main reasons for the lockdown in South Africa and elsewhere has been to “flatten the curve”. Although only severe cases need to be hospitalized due to patients needing oxygen and ventilators (special breathing machines), hospitals are short of those machines and are short of beds and personal protective equipment (PPE) for the medical workers. That is a big problem, especially in a country such as South Africa where there are already limited medical resources in some of the more rural hospitals. Doctors, nurses and hospital workers are on the frontline, and if they get sick all the rest of us lack enough care.

The nationwide lockdown in South Africa has helped flattened the Covid-19 curve, allowing the country time to reinforce its healthcare infrastructure. This was the intention of the Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize and his health advisors.
**Important details of other pandemics:**

Infectious diseases are diseases people get from other people. They are caused by germs and viruses that can spread from person to person, animal to person, or person to animal. Animals can start spreading diseases.

In history, infectious diseases have caused large outbreaks among humans.

The following table is a brief record of several pandemics in history and within recent decades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place and Event</th>
<th>Casualty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1347A.D.–1351A.D.</td>
<td>Second plague pandemic (black death).</td>
<td>Nearly a third of the European population died.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918A.D.–1919A.D.</td>
<td>“Spanish” flu, which actually started in the middle of the United States and spread to the whole world.</td>
<td>About 1 billion people worldwide were infected, and between 25 and 40 millions of people died. Its global average fatality rate was about 2.5–5%. This was caused by a coronavirus, which is related to COVID-19 but is not exactly the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003A.D.</td>
<td>SARS coronavirus influenza</td>
<td>More than 8000 cases and 349 deaths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009A.D.</td>
<td>The Influenza A,H1N1 virus</td>
<td>About 18,500 people died worldwide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018A.D.–2020A.D.</td>
<td>Ebola pandemic of The Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>By the end of 2019, the Ebola pandemic caused more than 2000 deaths. It was caused by a coronavirus, related to COVID-19 but not the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is believed that TB has been in South Africa since the 1800s</td>
<td>Tuberculosis (TB)</td>
<td>TB is a serious public health issue in South Africa. About 450 000 people develop the disease every year, and 270 000 of those are also living with HIV. TB is South Africa’s leading cause of death. About 89 000 people die from it every year; that’s ten people every hour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020A.D.</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>See more information below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIV/AIDS

South Africa has the largest HIV epidemic in the world, with 7.7 million people living with HIV, mostly concentrated in the township areas. Incorrect traditional beliefs about the epidemic have led to stigmatizing of the disease and have resulted in sexual violence. HIV is one of the most stigmatized diseases in history, which results in poor mental health outcomes among children (Boyes and Cluver, 2013).

South Africa has made huge improvements in getting people tested, in education efforts and prevention programmes. However many children have become AIDS orphans as a result of losing one or both parents through HIV-related illnesses. Research has shown that AIDS orphans are more vulnerable to psychological trauma as a result of poverty, malnutrition, stigma, exploitation, sickness, and sexual abuse.

Older learners can find out more about the various pandemics by researching the information in the school library, public library or on the Internet. Scientists of many nations have contributed useful information to this field. Among those reading this book are future scientists, epidemiologists, doctors, paramedics, health care workers and nurses who will do research in the fields of infectious diseases, public health, and medical care. You will be able to help our future generations to understand diseases and prevent them in a better way, so that they can live in a safer home and a safer planet.

YOUR STORY IS IMPORTANT

Historians as well as scientists are interested in the records of great pandemics that happened in the past. You are an eyewitness to a great pandemic. You had, and have first-hand experience. Your personal story is part of the shared experience of your whole community and nation about what happened in South Africa in the 2019–2020 pandemic.

Your story is a historical record of a big event that affected millions of people. Your true story and the stories of others make history.

Every day there are new stories about what people did to help each other during and after the pandemic. You can put those stories in your book when you hear about them.
My name: ____________________________________

A self portrait (drawing of me)

The date I started this book is: ________________________________

The date I finished this book is: ________________________________
WHO I AM

My birthday is: _________________  Age: ___  Gender: __________

Religion: __________________________

Address: __________________________

The people who usually live with me are: __________________________

(If I have a phone) My telephone number is: _______________________

Some things I like to do are:

1. ___________________________________________________________
2. ___________________________________________________________
3. ___________________________________________________________
4. ___________________________________________________________
5. ___________________________________________________________

One thing I don’t like doing is: _________________________________

Some things I am good at:

1. ___________________________________________________________
2. ___________________________________________________________
3. ___________________________________________________________
4. ___________________________________________________________
5. ___________________________________________________________

Something I want to learn more about is: ________________________

________________________________________________________________
When I leave school, I think I would like study: __________________

If I could have one dream to come true right now:

Write inside the star

Here is more space to explain your dream:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

__
Some things I enjoyed doing with my mother/father/caregiver/brother/sister before the pandemic:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

*Here is a picture of something I liked to do before the pandemic*
My best friends are:

This is where they live: ____________________________

This is what I like about them:

1. _____________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________
4. _____________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________

Some of the things I enjoyed doing with my friends before the pandemic that I really miss:

1. _____________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________
4. _____________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________
A drawing of me with a very good friend

About My School

The name of my school is:

________________________________________________________________________

My school’s address is: __________________________________________

My school’s phone number is: ____________________________

What I like most about school is: __________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
A picture of my school or classroom before the pandemic

A picture of my school or classroom AFTER the pandemic
The most awful things about the pandemic:

For me the worst thing about the pandemic is:

1. ______________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________

People I personally know who were made sick by COVID-19 are:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

People I personally know who got over the virus are:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

People I personally know who died due to the virus:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
This is a true story of someone I know during the pandemic:

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

The worst feeling I had about the story was:

[If you need more room to write, use the extra pages at the back of this book, or add to this book using staples, tape or paper clips].
How I found out about these things:

At first, I didn’t know what happened to other people. Later, on television, in newspapers, radio or on our cell phones, I learned more about the outbreak: increasing numbers of infected people being treated by doctors and nurses in hospitals, people dying of the virus, shortages of masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). I learned that scientists all over the world are working on medicines and vaccines to fight the pandemic.

When I saw TV news of doctors treating sick people, I felt:

I saw many people feeling scared and buying masks and disinfectants. When I saw that news, I felt:

When I had to wear a mask when I went out I felt:

When they told me to wash my hands I felt:

Most of the time I needed to stay at home and I felt:

When I heard news that some sick people had died I felt:

When I heard news that many sick people had recovered I felt:
Some measures used to stop the spread

This picture makes me think about, and feel:

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
WAYS OF HELPING AND GETTING HELP

Here’s another true story about people helping people:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

When I heard this story I felt:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Here is my drawing about this true story

GETTING HELP

Here are some things I personally know that people did to get help or make themselves safer and get things they needed during the pandemic:

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________
One day after the outbreak started I needed help. This is what I did:

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

A picture of me asking for help
This is what I needed help with: __________________________________________

This is what happened when I asked for help:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Problems and worries
My biggest problems or worries now are:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Some people who I can talk to about these are:
This is what I’d most like help with:

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

Here are some ways I can offer help:

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________
Here is a picture of me helping someone else

My list of things that make me feel better

1. _____________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________
4. _____________________________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________________________
Some things I can do to make myself feel better when I am upset:

1. 
2. 
3. 

Some things I think I am really good at:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Here is more space to talk about the things I am really good at:
The things I am really good at:

Here are some things I want to learn to do better:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Here are some reasons why people like me or things that are special about me:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5.
WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

What can I expect to feel sometimes because of fear about the pandemic? Circle the statements that apply to you.

◇ I might remember fearful things when I don’t want to remember them.
◇
◇ Sometimes I may be afraid for my life and other people’s lives.
◇
◇ I might have trouble sleeping.
◇
◇ I might be irritable sometimes.
◇
◇ I could have a loss of confidence in the future.
◇
◇ I might worry about it happening again.
◇
◇ Sometimes I might have bad dreams about the pandemic.
◇
◇ Sometimes I might have trouble concentrating.
◇
◇ I might feel like acting younger than I am for a while.

What strengths and good things can I expect as I learn to deal with my troubles? Circle the statements that you relate to.

1. A strong desire to be helpful to other people.
2. A strong curiosity to learn more about the pandemic and how to reduce the damage.
3. Respect for myself and others who suffer from difficult experiences.
4. Knowing that My Personal Story about the Pandemic is only one of my true stories.
5. I can learn to have a healthy level of confidence in the future.
MY HEALTH

Circle the correct answer

1. I do have some troubles with my health.
2. I don’t have any troubles with my health.

If you do have any health troubles, write them here:

My health troubles are:

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________
4. __________________________________________________________

Circle the right answer (better, worse or the same):

1. Mostly, these troubles are now: better / worse than they were a year ago.
2. These troubles are now the same as they were a year ago.

Circle the right answer:

1. I am about as tall as other children my age YES NO
2. I am (circle the answer) gaining / losing weight YES NO
3. I saw a nurse or doctor for a checkup in the past year YES NO

Other people are worried about my health because:

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

My nurse or doctor’s name is: ___________________________
The clinic I visit is called: ________________________________

The last time I went to the clinic was: ________________

Gaining control over my inner life and feeling safe:

Taking action to help others helps you realize you have power to make an important difference. Learning about how to stay safe helps everyone.

Helping other people:

Here are some things I can do to help people who got sick, or who had a friend or family member die or get very sick:

✔ I can write letters or make drawings to encourage and support those who are suffering, and give them to as many people as I can.

✔ I might be able to give something to very needy people.

✔ I can show My South African Pandemic Story to others or tell them about it if I want my book to be private. If they want help to write their own Pandemic Story book, I could help them.

✔ I can make a pandemic Newsletter or Newsboard at school.

✔ Here is something else I can do to help others: ☺

Other ideas:
Expressing Appreciation For Help From Others:

1. You might want to write personal thank you notes to health care workers for their heroic work to fight against the pandemic.
2. You and others might want to write your own letter to the people who lead in the fight against the pandemic, as well as those who contributed to the fight. This could be a school or online project.
3. You can write a thank you note or a drawing to someone who helped you personally during the pandemic or to people who are helping you now.

Other ideas about things I can do:

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

Positive things about myself during lockdown:

This is what I’ve learnt about myself during lockdown that I am proud of:

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
If I had a younger brother or sister this is what I would say to support them:

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

This is how I comfort myself:

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

A picture of me comforting a younger sibling, cousin or friend:
Learning new things and thinking about the future

You can learn about jobs and training to help plan your future. Teachers and others can answer your questions about how to learn what jobs will be especially needed and useful.

How many ways can you think of to learn more about the job you would like to have when you grow up?

1. _________________________________________________
2. _________________________________________________
3. _________________________________________________
4. _________________________________________________

Actions that can be taken to be helpful and to grow in strength

Besides working on this book, there are other things you can do about your pandemic thoughts and feelings. You have already learned many of these things from your parents and teachers. Here are reminders and helpful ideas:

* You can use a public library or do an online search to learn more about pandemics, infectious diseases, epidemiology and medical treatment. Learn about related sciences and which universities or colleges teach such sciences. Your librarian, library assistant, teacher or student can assist you with these searches.

* You could make a list of supplies you might need if another wave of pandemic and hard lockdown happens. Separate what you will need to take with you if you have to leave home in a hurry to go somewhere else. Does a member of your family need medicine, like insulin or heart pills? Portable oxygen? A wheelchair? Copies of medical records?

* You and your siblings/parents or caregivers could plan and practice how to protect yourself, how to adjust your daily life and your mood, and how to spend time in a better way during a pandemic and lockdown.

* If it is safe enough, you might be able to volunteer to help at an organisation in your community. By helping others, we can feel better within ourselves.
* With permission, you could paint a pandemic story mural on a public wall.

* You can write down your thoughts and suggestions on how to protect your city, your community, and your home.

**Safety awareness and being prepared: what you should know**

Here are some safety practices and other ideas about how to be prepared and stay safe in the pandemic:

1. Be at home as much as possible. Stick to regulations linked to the various Stages of Lockdown.
2. Stay 1 and a half - 2 meters or MORE away from others if you can when you are in public places such as supermarkets, schools and taking public transportation.
3. Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes with your hands. It is surprising how often most people do this without thinking. The virus can enter only through mouth, eyes, or nose!!
4. It is compulsory for every South African to wear a mask when leaving your home. The mask should be washed every day. Do not touch the outside of the mask as the virus can be spread to your hands.
5. Use good personal hygiene.
6. Keep hands clean at all times, especially after being in public, using the toilet or before eating. Always wash hands with running water and soap for at least 20 seconds each time. Clean under your nails. Use hand sanitizer if you’re not at a place where you can wash your hands or after returning from public places.
7. Cover your nose and mouth with your elbows and sleeves when sneezing or coughing.
8. Keep the house clean. Frequently open the window for ventilation. Do regular disinfecting and cleaning of surfaces.
9. Stay strong by good diet and exercise. Now that we can exercise at any time of the day, it’s important to be physically active, but always keeping social distancing.
10. Do not spit on the ground. Wrap nasal and mouth secretions in tissue paper and dispose in covered rubbish bins.
11. Monitor your health and the health of your family members. Especially take your temperature if you feel you have a fever.
12. Go to the clinic if you have a fever, cough, throat pain, chest tightness, shortness of breath, weakness, muscle pains, loss of taste
or smell. If you are having trouble breathing, go straight to the clinic. Wear a mask when you leave the house.

13. People who have been in close contact with patients infected by COVID-19 should be in isolation at home. They need to be free of any temperature or other symptoms for 14 days before leaving home, starting from the day of last contact with infected people. The person who needs to do home isolation should reduce contact with others in the home as much as possible. Stay more than two meters apart. Clean and sterilize places that have been touched, to avoid spreading the virus. Do not go outside during the two-week period except for emergencies. If you must go outside, wear a mask and avoid crowded places.

14. People in home isolation should take their temperature at least twice a day and not have outside visitors. Don’t have close physical contact with other family members, and do not share with any items that may lead to infection. Don’t share toothbrushes, unwashed glasses and tableware, food, beverages, towels, clothing and bedding.

15. If you must enter a sick person’s space, wear a protective mask. Do not touch or adjust the mask during the visit. If you are not a caregiver, try to avoid direct contact with people in hospitals and clinics. When any direct contact happens, one should clean and disinfect oneself immediately.

16. Prepare emergency supplies for the family in case there is another hard lockdown: drinking water, dry food and food for cooking. Everyone should have enough of their regular medicines on hand for at least two weeks.

17. Prepare a contact list of names, addresses and phone numbers of relatives and friends, neighborhood committees, hospitals, clinics, police stations and psychological hotlines (see contact numbers at the end of this book). Make a copy and keep it in your bag or wallet. This information can be useful in case of emergency.
Viruses much like COVID-19 caused many big sickness outbreaks of the past 100 years: the flus of 1918, 1957 and 1968; and SARS, H1N1, MERS and Ebola. These diseases are “zoonotic”. That “zoo” in the word means they have moved from an animal population into humans. They are “RNA” viruses. That means they can only live in a host animal. Left alone outside an animal, a virus will stop growing.

RNA viruses are very contagious (very easily spread mostly by direct contact) from one person to another and very hard to stop when people keep spreading them. Wearing masks, washing hands properly and keeping a distance between people helps stops the spread of the virus.

When viruses encounter a host (vector), they use proteins on their surfaces to unlock and invade its cells. They take control of those cells to produce many many more copies of the viruses. Inside a cell, a virus can make 10,000 copies of itself in a matter of hours! Within a few days, the infected person will carry hundreds of millions of viral particles in every teaspoon of his blood.

Highly lethal viruses like SARS and Ebola tend to burn themselves out, leaving no one alive to spread them. COVID-19 viruses don’t kill everyone, so they keep on spreading.

But a virus that kills only a fraction of its victims can perpetuate itself indefinitely (keep itself going). One 2014 study found that the virus causing mouth sores has been with human beings for millions of years.

*More news for young scientists: You can save lives by knowing this fact*

Doctor groups are recommending testing and isolation for people who lose their ability to smell and taste, even if they have no other symptoms. Anosmia, the loss of sense of smell, and Ageusia, (say it as “a goose ya”) are things most people don’t know about. You can educate others. Ageusia, loss of the sense of taste, and anosmia have emerged as peculiar telltale signs of COVID-19. “We really want to raise awareness that this
is a sign of infection and that anyone who develops loss of sense of smell or taste should self-isolate,” Prof. Claire Hopkins, president of the British Rhinological Society, wrote. “It could contribute to slowing transmission [spread of the disease] and save lives.”

Get ready to be a scientist. Learn new ideas and hard vocabulary words:

Vocabulary:

Electron microscope A super powerful microscope
Anosmia Lack of a sense of smell
Ageusia Lack of a sense of taste
Virus A germ that can only grow inside a creature
Corona A crown shape
COVID-19 A new illness from a virus with a crown shape
Comorbidity A chronic health condition or a concurrent illness which could result in making the illness worse in co-occurrence with Covid-19.
Epidemic Many people are sick
Pandemic Many people are sick in many countries
Endemic The sickness keeps happening in a region
Zoonotic The germ or virus comes from an animal
Respiratory The breathing system, especially the lungs.
RNA One of the building-blocks of living things. The COVID-19 is made of RNA.
Lethal It kills.

Antibody A complicated chemical in the blood that proves you had the virus and might show you are immune. Scientists are working hard and fast right now to develop tests to find out who has antibodies for Covid-19.
MEDICAL INFORMATION

This information should be written here by my parent or another adult, if they can.

Birthday is / / /

Blood type: ________________________________

Special medical needs: ________________________________

History of allergies: ________________________________

Medications currently taken: (give the dose of each medicine if known, and how many times a day)

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Immunization Record, if available. Paste a copy or write it in this space:


GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORT

Learners needing any psychosocial support (wanting to just talk to someone privately about anything/including facing any difficulties or challenges (Abafundi abadinga nayiphi na ingqondo (ngokufuna ukuthetha nomntu ngasese ngayo nantoni na / kubandakanya ukujongana nobunzima okanye imiceli mngeni)), see contact numbers below.

A. DO NOT PANIC:

You need to know that the Department of Education (DBE) has said that they are putting into place return to school, ‘recovery’ plans that aim to ensure that all learners are taught what they need to know within this year.

B. WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Try to ‘stay connected’ to school life.
2. This does not mean that you have to be in touch with the school if you are not able to do so.
3. Rather, it means that you can do things that will help you not forget what you have already learnt.
4. Regularly revise and memorise what you have previously learnt by: reading and understanding texts, completing written tasks and practicing Maths and Science calculations.
5. These can help you prepare for when we all return to school.

Keeping yourself connected to your normal life as much as possible or doing as many of your regular activities as possible can be helpful.

C. Possible signs that you may be finding it challenging to cope:

1. Feeling sad or crying when there is no apparent reason (Ukuziva ulusizi okanye ulile xa kungekho sizathu sivakalayo).
2. Anger and frustration when there is no apparent reason (Umsindo kunye nokukhathazeka xa kungekho sizathu sibonakalayo).
3. Not taking part in activities you would usually enjoy at home (Ukungathathi inxaxheba kwimisebenzi abanokonwaba ekhaya).
4. Loss of interest in spending time with family or friends via social media (Ukungathathi inxaxheba kwimisebenzi abanokonwaba ekhaya).
5. **Tiredness and loss of energy** (Ukudinwa kunye nokuphelelela amandla).

6. **Sleeping too much or struggling to sleep** (Ukulala kakhulu okanye ukusokola ukulala).

7. **Changes in appetite** (Utshintsho kumdla wokuta).

8. **Angry outbursts, disruptive or risky behaviour** (Ukuphuma ngengqumbo, isenzo esiphazamisayo okanye esiyingozi).

9. **Self-harm** (e.g. cutting, burning, or otherwise hurting themselves) (Ukuzenzakalisa (umz. Ukuzisika, ukutshisa, okanye ukuzenzakalisa).

**D. Learners need to know that:**

1. **If you are unable to get hold of a teacher you can try** and get hold of SAPS if you feel you believe the risk is **high** (Ukuba awukwazi ukubamba utitshala okanye unontlalontle unokuzama ukubamba i-SAPS ukuba uziva ngathi uyakholelwa ukuba umngcipheko uphezulu).

2. **Alternatively contact community organizations (Nxibelelana neminye imibutho yabahlali):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service provider</th>
<th>National or provincial</th>
<th>Types of service</th>
<th>Contact number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South African Police Services</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Report a crime</td>
<td>08600 10111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) - ADHD</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>ADHD Helpline</td>
<td>0800 55 44 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare South Africa</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Report child abuse or neglect</td>
<td>0861 452 4110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childline South Africa</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Report child abuse or neglect</td>
<td>08000 55555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Child Protection Units</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Report child abuse or neglect</td>
<td><a href="mailto:childprotect@saps.org.za">childprotect@saps.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Based Violence Command Centre</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Gender based violence helpline (GBV)</td>
<td>0800 428 428 <em>120</em>7867#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Based Violence Command Centre</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>GBV helpline for the deaf and disabled community</td>
<td>Helpme GBV SMS 'help' to 31531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG)</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Helpline for mental disorders, anxiety, depression and suicide</td>
<td>0800 456 789 0800 567 567 (suicide hotline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIPLA 24-hr Mental Health Helpline</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Helpline for mental disorders, anxiety, depression and suicide</td>
<td>0800 456 789 WhatsApp: 076 88 22 77 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Crisis Line</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>National Crisis Line 24 hour telephonic counselling service dealing with all forms of abuse, HIV/AIDS, bereavement, suicide and eating disorders</td>
<td>0861 322 322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African Police Services</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Report a crime</td>
<td>08600 10111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHEN DO CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS NEED MORE HELP?

UCLA Brief COVID-19 Screen for Child/Adolescent PTSD ©

Name: _____________________ ID# ____________ Age: ____ Gender:  Female  Male

Other

Grade in School _______ School: ___________Teacher: _____________

City/Province _______________

Interviewer Name/I.D. ________________

Date (month, day, year) ___/___/___ (Session # ___________)

The coronavirus illness has made a lot of people very scared and worried about their own safety and health, and the safety and health of their family and friends. To help me understand how you are doing with what is happening, I’d like to ask you some questions about some ways that we know people react to this kind of danger. For me to better understand your answers, it’s helpful for me to ask you a few questions first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you or someone close to you gotten very sick or been in the hospital because of this illness?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you or someone close to you been quarantined because of having symptoms of this illness?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you or someone close to you been told of a positive test for this illness?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does someone close to you work around people who might have this illness?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you or a family member had to move away from home because of this illness?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has anyone close to you died because of this illness?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If yes, can you tell me who?

____________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has anything else happened to you/your family because of this illness that has been very upsetting?</th>
<th>Yes  No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Describe:

____________________

____________________

© (2020) The Regents of the University of California. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. You may use and distribute the UCLA Brief COVID-19 Screen free of charge. You may not modify the items or use them to create a derivative work. For questions about making a translation or use in an electronic health record system, contact info@reactionindex.com.
(Even if no item above is scored “Yes”, continue to ask the following.)

For your reactions to what’s happening because of the coronavirus illness, TELL ME for each problem listed below the number (0, 1, 2, 3, or 4) that shows how often the problem happened to you in the past month. Use the Frequency Rating Sheet to help you decide how often the problem happened in the past month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW MUCH OF THE TIME DURING THE PAST MONTH...</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Little</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Much</th>
<th>Most</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 I try to stay away from people, places, or things that remind me about what happened or what is still happening.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 I get upset easily or get into arguments or physical fights.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 I have trouble concentrating or paying attention.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 When something reminds me of what happened or is still happening, I get very upset, afraid, or sad.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 I have trouble feeling happiness or love.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 I try not to think about or have feelings about what happened or is still happening.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 When something reminds me of what happened, I have strong feelings in my body like my heart beats fast, my head aches or my stomach aches.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 I have thoughts like “I will never be able to trust other people.”</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 I feel alone even when I am around other people.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 I have upsetting thoughts, pictures or sounds of what happened or is still happening come into my mind when I don’t want them to.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 I have trouble going to sleep, wake up often, or have trouble getting back to sleep.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Original Writers of 'My Pandemic Story'

Gilbert Kliman, M.D., is Director of The Children's Psychological Health Center in San Francisco, California. He has 50 years of experience in psychological disaster response. He is the founder and former director of the nation’s largest situational crisis facility, the non-profit Center for Preventive Psychiatry in White Plains, New York. He and that Center’s staff helped many thousands of severely stressed persons following deaths, injuries, and violent experiences including aircraft accidents, floods and tornadoes, urban crimes and homelessness. Author of Psychological Emergencies of Childhood, he pioneered the concept of “psychological immunization” by small doses of honest communication. Recipient of over 40 service and research grants and Editor of The Journal of Preventive Psychiatry, in addition to over 70 scientific articles, Dr. Kliman wrote Responsible Parenthood with Albert Rosenfeld. That book won an international literary prize for "world’s best book concerning the well-being and nurture of children." He is the inventor of Reflective Network Therapy for children in classroom groups, and the creator of manuals for carrying out that therapy and its short form called The Guided Activity Workbook Method. He recently won the Dean Brockman Award for his Unifying New Theory of PTSD, the 2016 Anna Freud Award for his preschool research and service, and in 2020 the first Humanitarian Award of the American Psychoanalytic Association. See www.childrenspsychologicalhealthcenter.org for a fuller description of his work and that of the agency he directs.

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Agencies that collaborated to help make this guided activity book available to children, families, teachers and caregivers:
1. The Children’s Psychological Health Center, Inc.,
(www.childrenspsychologicalhealthcenter.org), San Francisco, California.
94115. See their series of disaster response guided activity workbooks.
Gilbert Kliman, MD, Medical Director (see above)
2. China American Psychoanalytic Alliance (CAPA)
(www.capachina.org; www.capachina.org.cn)
3. Elise Snyder, M.D., President: Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at
Yale School of Medicine. In 2012 she received the American Society of
Psychoanalytic Physicians: Sigmund Freud Award and also the 2012
American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Psychodynamic Psychotherapy
Presidential Award.
4. You Chen, M.D.: Psychiatrist, psychotherapist, Director of Community
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Other publications
The Children’s Psychological Health Center publishes other Guided Activity
Workbooks similar to My Pandemic Story. Other publications include My
Earthquake Story, My Sichuan Earthquake Story, My Story About Being
Homeless, My Story About My Shelter Home, My Fire Story, My Tornado Story,
Tormenta del Stan, and My Personal Story about Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, This
is a series of trauma related, guided activity workbooks for children, families and
teachers coping with severe stress. Licenses for mass copying are available to
governments and nonprofits. Treatment for preschoolers is described and
manualized in Kliman, G. 2011 Reflective Network Therapy. Universities Press of
America hardcopy available on amazon.com and as a Kindle book.

See the Disaster Relief section of our agency’s website to learn more. Tax
deductible contributions welcomed and needed at
www.childrenspsychologicalhealthcenter.org or
https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/defaulturl-21587
South African Adaptations:

Front cover image
Gabriel Sieff, Grade 10 High School Student, Cape Town, South Africa.

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