

# COVID-19 YOUTH IMPACT SURVEY

## Executive Summary

April 24, 2020



## Overview

The Governor's Executive Order 20-02, that resulted in closing schools, and the 'stay at home' order effective March 27<sup>th</sup> have upended the daily lives of all Minnesotans. It has also drastically changed how young people must now experience their daily lives. To understand these experiences, get rapid feedback, and proactively respond to our community, the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth (BBA) partnered with the City of Brooklyn Park Youth Response Team to implement an online survey and conduct youth interviews.

The online survey was administered from April 2-16, 2020 to collect data about youths' needs, vulnerability, and compliance. Six hundred twenty-eight (628) surveys were completed. Respondents generally reflect the racial make-up of youth in the cities of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park.

Phone interviews were conducted with 102 youth. These interviews will allow us to get a deeper understanding of the results from the online survey, and youth views about COVID-19. The interview data will be available in early May and is not included in this report.

## Results

### **Question 1: Do you live with or often see someone at higher risk for developing more severe illness (requiring hospitalization) from Coronavirus (COVID-19)?** *Number of respondents: 628*

- About 26% of youth reported living with someone who is at a higher risk for developing severe reactions from COVID-19, while 55% reported that they did not live with anyone at risk
- Eighteen percent (18%) of youth answered, "Not Sure"
- Thus, the percentage of youth at risk of infecting someone at higher risk could be up to 44%

### **Question 2: Which worries do you have either now or in the next couple of weeks?** *Number of respondents: 628. This was a multiple-choice question.*

- Youth are most worried and concerned about the lack of social interaction (53%)
- Physical activity (43%)
- School-related issues are another point of concern (36%)
- Youth are also concerned about employment (26%)

### **Question 3: What do you need during this time to feel safe and to take care of yourself and your family?** *Number of respondents: 451. This was an open-ended question. These are the top 4 themes:*

- I need to / Everyone needs to follow stay-at-home, social distancing, hygiene guidelines
- Need to know that family is safe / family connected to well-being
- Food, grocery, cleaning, PPE supplies or non-surgical masks
- Social interaction with friends

### **Question 4: Which of the stay at home or social distance guidelines are you following?** *Number of respondents: 628. This was a multiple-choice question.*

- A high percentage (85%) of young people are following the stay at home guideline
- Only 3% report not following social distancing recommendations

- As a reference, there are approximately 15,000 youth ages 10-19 in both cities (3% = 450)

**Question 5: Do you want someone to follow up with you to answer any questions or direct you to resources?** *Number of respondents: 616*

- 12% of students said YES, they wanted a follow-up call from the city.

## Summary

1. **Over 600 youth responded to our online survey and almost 100 youth have participated in phone interviews.** The relationships youth workers have with young people are essential for understanding and responding to the need of youth.
2. **From 26% to 44% of youth (and possibly more) live with or often see someone at higher risk for developing more severe illness from COVID-19.** When programs for young people start up again, and before a vaccine is available, special considerations for youth who could potentially place household members at risk should be developed to reduce exposure risk.
3. **Youth are worried about:**
  - a. **Lack of social interactions.** Developmentally, social connection with peers becomes much more important during the adolescent period. The effect of the isolation will have increasingly negative impact young people's mental and emotional health.
  - b. **Staying active and healthy.** During the stay at home restrictions, youth are limited from participating in the sports and outdoor activities they are used to.
  - c. **Employment, money, schoolwork, and their pathway to college.** Many of these youth who responded to the survey are looking to work. For some youth, they are a contributor to their household income, so it is imperative that they have access to a safe and steady employment. Distance learning is a new experience for youth. Many are unmotivated and overwhelmed by having to adjust to the new style of learning.
4. **Youth need:**
  - a. **The entire community to follow stay-at-home, social distancing, and hygiene guidelines.** Most youth understand the importance of the public health guidelines to maintain personal, family, and community well-being. But, without a direct campaign to educate and engage youth not following social distancing guidelines, the actions of a small group could lead to community spread of COVID-19 in our cities.
  - b. **Continued family connection, resources such as food, cleaning supplies and masks, and safe opportunities for social interaction with friends.** Youth are facing an unprecedented event in their lives that has affected their whole structure and external supports. Providing the education and resources for youth to take action to support their family unit will be important.
5. **Most youth (85%) are following stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines right now.** However, as these restrictions are in place longer and summer approaches, a growing number of youth in absence of other education and opportunities, may disregard social distancing because of their need to be outside and interact with their peers.

## Emerging Recommendations

### 1. **Develop a Youth Centered Public Health Marketing Campaign**

- ✓ Mobilize partners, especially public health experts, to develop a youth centered marketing campaign to reassure them, connect them to existing opportunities for social

interaction, and provide factual public health information and resources so they can make good decisions to protect their health and the health of those around them.

## **2. Take Action Where We Can – Support Opportunities for Youth Engagement**

- ✓ Continue to listen to young people through the surveys and interviews via our 2020 Youth to Youth Summer Survey.
- ✓ Continue to support the Brooklyns Youth Council to lead the Youth Adult Summit in June – connecting youth to opportunities and resources like college access, health living etc.
- ✓ Continue to elevate the City of Brooklyn Park’s BP Youth Outreach Team’s – this is an innovative effort to engage youth out in the community and is already proven to be effective in providing youth with public health information and in promoting safety.
- ✓ Support Cities’ Recreation and Parks department plan for summer programs (including Rec on the Go) to include social distancing guidelines and find creative ways to deliver “Summer Sport Packs” to youth to promote physical activity through the Alliance Youth Sports Initiative.

## **3. Engage Partners to Leverage Resources and Maximize Impact**

- ✓ **Alliance Partners.** Bring partners together to hear these results and explore both individual and collective action to respond to needs:
  - I need to / Everyone needs to follow stay-at-home, social distancing, hygiene guidelines
  - Need to know that family is safe / family connected to well-being
  - Food, grocery, cleaning, PPE supplies or non-surgical masks
  - Social interaction with friends
- ✓ **Hennepin County Public Health.** We are exploring opportunities to leverage County resources to support youth identified needs. We hope to tap into their public health expertise to help guide and develop effective strategies to prevent community spread, implement educational marketing campaigns, recommend policies, administer services, and partner to continue conducting research.
- ✓ **School Districts.** We will engage our school district partners to continue their efforts to support learning, deliver food, and provide critical access via district issued devices and Wi-Fi. There are already efforts with Osseo Area Schools and Brooklyn Center Community Schools to address computer and internet access gaps in the community, especially at apartments complexes. We will also work with schools to ensure that devices can be made available to students over the summer, to ensure that students can engage in summer learning and supports from programs such as BrookLynk.
- ✓ **Private Sector Partners:** The availability of jobs for our youth, and overall family well-being, is dependent on the functioning of our business community. We should explore opportunities to work with our business community to support their reopening in a timely and safe manner.

# COVID-19 YOUTH IMPACT SURVEY REPORT

April 21, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

### Objective

The objective of the Youth Impact Survey is to get rapid feedback on the safety and well-being of youth in our community, and to be able to report back to the City of Brooklyn Park Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and share information with The Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth partners.

### Evaluation Questions

The evaluation questions were:

- *Needs*: What concerns do youth have? What do they need in order to feel safe and take care of themselves?
- *Vulnerability*: Are youth in regular contact with people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19?
- *Compliance*: Are youth complying with state guidelines to stay at home or social distance themselves?
- *Information*: Do youth understand basic facts about COVID-19 and strategies to prevent its spread? [Interview]
- *Current state of mind*: How are youth affected by the changes (stay at home, social distancing, school closures) due to COVID-19? [Interview]
- *Supports*: How are youth adjusting to the changes due to COVID-19? What supports would help them deal with the changes? [Interview]

### Methods

An online survey was administered in Survey Monkey for two weeks (from April 2-16, 2020) to collect data about youths' needs, vulnerability, and compliance. It will be sent to youth online through these avenues:

- Zanewood Recreation Center
- Cities United / My Brother's Keeper
- BrookLynk
- BPPD Cohort
- Brooklyns Youth Council
- Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth
- BBAY Community Engagement Team (CET)
- North View Middle School
- Park Center High School
- Brooklyn Center Community Schools

The second phase will involve a phone call to up to 100 youth to gather a deeper understanding of the results from the online survey, as well as what information youth understand about COVID-19, their current state of mind, and supports they are using and will need to help them deal with the changes due to the pandemic.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

	Count	%
N	628	100%

Race / Ethnicity	Count	%
Black American	214	34%
Asian (Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, etc.)	144	23%
White	116	18%
African (Liberian, Oromo, Somali, etc.)	105	17%
Hispanic or Latino/a (Mexican, etc.)	100	16%
American Indian or Native American	32	5%
Would rather not say	22	4%
Another race (please specify)	14	2%

School	Count	%
Park Center High School	199	32%
Brooklyn Center High School	99	16%
Brooklyn Center Middle School	94	15%
North View Middle School	32	5%
Osseo Senior High School	29	5%
Champlin Park High School	25	4%
Brooklyn Center Early College Academy	20	3%
Brooklyn Middle School	17	3%
Osseo Middle School	11	2%
Robbinsdale Cooper High School	9	2%
SAGE Academy	7	1%
Jackson Middle School	5	1%
Osseo Area Learning Center	5	1%
Robbinsdale Middle School	1	0%
Other	75	12%

A total of 628 youth responded to the online survey. The breakdown of racial and ethnic background is listed in the table above. Note that respondents were given the opportunity to select all the racial and ethnic identities that described them. Fifteen percent (15%) selected more than one.

Respondents were also asked to select the school that they currently attended. The demographics generally reflect the racial make-up of youth served at the schools who participated in the outreach within the cities of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park.

The large number of surveys we were able to collect with youth (without using monetary incentives) was due in large part to the relationships city and school staff had with youth in our community. Some staff called youth by phone to give the survey, record the answers, and input them online.

## SURVEY QUESTIONS

The survey questions and results are listed below.

### 1. Do you live with or often see someone at higher risk for developing more severe illness (requiring hospitalization) from Coronavirus (COVID-19)? Number of respondents: 628

*High risk categories are: over 65 years old, pregnant, have an underlying health condition such as a blood disorder, chronic kidney or liver disease, compromised immune system, endocrine or metabolic disorders, heart or lung disease, or neurological conditions.*

	Overall	African	Asian	Black American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Yes	26%	27%	22%	26%	23%	41%
No	55%	56%	51%	64%	50%	42%
Not Sure	18%	17%	27%	9%	27%	16%
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%

*Cells shaded lighter blue indicate a 7% - 9% higher percentage than the overall. Cells shaded darker blue indicate a 10%+ higher percentage than the overall.*

About 26% of youth reported living with someone who is at a higher risk for developing severe reactions from COVID 19, while 55% reported that they did not live with anyone at risk. Sixteen percent (18%) of youth answered “Not Sure”. Therefore, the real percentage of youth who are at risk of infecting someone who is at higher risk could be as high as 44%.

A much higher percentage of youth who identified as White (41%) reported that they lived with or often saw someone at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 than the overall percentage (26%). A slightly higher percentage of youth who identified as Black Americans (64%) reported they did not live with or often saw someone at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 than the overall percentage (55%).

And slightly higher percentages of youth who identified as Asian (27%) and Hispanic or Latino/a (27%) reported that they were unsure compared to the overall percentage (18%).

As restrictions loosen up in the coming months, city staff need to consider not only the risk to people who are at higher risk for serious complications from COVID-19, but family members or friends who they are in close contact with who might be carriers of the virus. There may be a need for additional precautions for those young people (if they participate in park and rec programming for example), and therefore the need to identify them.

Through their interaction with youth in our community, Youth Services staff have been aware of misinformation in the Black American community about whether COVID-19 can spread in their community. The high percentage of Black American youth who reported that they are not in close proximity with someone at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 may be due to this. It is possible that these youth do live with household members who are at higher risk for COVID-19 symptoms but aren't aware or don't believe it is a serious concern.

**2. Which worries do you have either now or in the next couple of weeks? Number of respondents: 628.**

	Overall	African	Asian	Black American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Social interaction (lack of)	53%	48%	51%	53%	42%	72%
Exercising / staying active and healthy	43%	40%	45%	43%	45%	52%
Needing help with schoolwork	36%	30%	39%	32%	57%	32%
Finding a job	26%	32%	28%	29%	18%	24%
Getting ready for college	21%	23%	26%	15%	23%	29%
Getting enough food	20%	18%	27%	17%	21%	12%
Getting medical care if I or someone in my family gets sick	19%	18%	22%	12%	20%	20%
Mental or emotional support	16%	10%	14%	15%	18%	28%
My relationship with my family	14%	14%	13%	14%	13%	17%
Getting medications	10%	7%	13%	6%	12%	10%
Getting access to internet	8%	10%	8%	6%	10%	5%
Getting access to a computer, laptop, or tablet	7%	7%	6%	8%	9%	7%
Housing	6%	6%	11%	5%	5%	5%
Cyber-bulling	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Other	10%	8%	10%	12%	7%	15%

*Cells shaded lighter blue indicate a 7% - 9% higher percentage than the overall. Cells shaded darker blue indicate a 10%+ higher percentage than the overall.*

Understandably, youth are most worried and concerned about the lack of social interaction (53%) and physical activity (43%). Most of their days are spent at home without their friends and without access to the outdoor spaces to participate in the physical activity that they are used to. These were part of their daily-occurring structure that is now paused due to school cancellations and social distancing guidelines. White youth were especially worried about social interaction during this time, and slightly more worried about staying active and healthy.

School-related issues are another point of concern (36%), as students have switched completely over to distance learning, which is a new experience for the vast majority. Students now have a larger burden of responsibility in making sure that they are getting their education. Students identifying as Hispanic or Latino/a were especially concerned about needing help with their schoolwork.

Youth are also concerned about employment (26%). Many youth are seeking employment to support their families during this time. Respondents who were BrookLynk participants were concerned about whether their summer internships would still continue. In a later survey question, 8% of youth responded that they are currently working outside the home.

Asian youth told us they were slightly more concerned about getting enough food than the overall group. White youth responded that they were slightly more worried about getting ready for college and much more concerned than the overall population about receiving mental or emotional support.

Concerns over internet and technology access could be understated since the primary method of surveying was conducted online. Students without that access would potentially have less opportunity to participate in the survey.

**3. What do you need during this time to feel safe and to take care of yourself and your family?**  
*Number of respondents: 451*

*This question was asked open-ended on the survey. Respondents could write whatever they felt was appropriate. The results were read, themed, and quantified. Thus, many of the following answers are repeated from the previous question.*

	Overall	African	Asian	Black American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Nothing / We're fine	33%	27%	29%	39%	24%	37%
I need to / Everyone needs to follow stay-at-home, social distancing, hygiene guidelines	16%	19%	16%	14%	22%	13%
Need to know that family is safe / family connected to well-being	14%	8%	7%	17%	22%	7%
Food, grocery, cleaning, PPE supplies	14%	12%	16%	15%	11%	10%
Social interaction with friends	8%	7%	11%	6%	5%	8%
Reassurance (that things will be okay, go back to normal) and information	8%	4%	9%	4%	9%	11%
Something to do (activities, exercise, etc.)	7%	10%	6%	6%	7%	8%
Job or money	7%	11%	7%	8%	3%	6%
General support (mental health, community, etc.)	6%	12%	4%	8%	4%	2%
Help with school and homework	5%	10%	6%	4%	7%	4%
Space and time to relax	4%	4%	7%	1%	3%	7%
Other	9%	11%	11%	6%	9%	4%

*Cells shaded lighter blue indicate a 7% - 9% higher percentage than the overall. Cells shaded darker blue indicate a 10%+ higher percentage than the overall.*

Many of the same concerns from the previous question about issues youth worried about were found in this open-ended question: food, social interaction, activities to do, finding a job, help with school, etc.



Some of the themes found in the qualitative analysis of the answers to this question are summarized below with representative quotes as examples.

### **No concerns**

*"I feel safe at home and well taken care of, so I don't need anything during this time."*

About a third of youth who responded to this question said that they had no concerns. They are able to receive everything they need from their families or communities in order to feel safe at this time. Black American youth responded slightly more (39% vs 33% overall) they were fine. As noted above, there might be a correlation to the misinformation in the community about whether they are susceptible to COVID-19.

### **Follow public health guidelines**

*"For everyone to follow the guidelines set in place, and stay home! A lot of people aren't taking this seriously and it's so frustrating."*

Similar to the results of the Community Impact Survey, many youth said that what they needed was for everyone to follow the guidelines from public health officials (stay at home, social distancing, and hygiene), since many noted that not all people were doing so.

### **Family well-being**

*"During this time, I just need my family to feel safe."*

*"Not for me specifically but my parent still has to go to work which stresses me out."*

Family well-being was an underlying theme that came up in many of the youth's responses. Even the youth who responded they didn't need anything, mentioned that was the case because their families were safe and healthy. It seems that when youth consider their own safety and well-being, it is directly tied to whether their families are safe and well. Many youth are tightly connected to their families. We know that especially for some immigrant and refugee families, the youth take on additional responsibilities in the families because they are the primary English speakers.

### **Reassurance**

*"I just want people telling us it's going to be okay and that they are doing all they can to stop the spread."*

*"To have reassurance that this, too, shall pass. Whether that be from a friend or the news, I just don't want to feel trapped."*

*"Play with my brother so he doesn't get bored, and because his birthday party got cancelled. Eat things I don't really like but we don't have my favorite foods anymore. Do my work science and choir are hard because they are just packets that don't teach you and I don't know the answers."*

Youth talked about needing reassurance during this time of crisis in their lives. Many reported their concerns over the disruptions in the short-term (school, graduation, sports, etc.) and long-term (college, etc.). With so much uncertainty currently about how long stay-at-home guidelines will last, whether parents will have jobs, how long schools will be shut, and almost everything else in their lives, it is starting to take a toll on their mental and emotional health. Youth need to hear from people in their

lives, that even though there might not be a return to “normal”, that things will be okay, especially since currently those connections to teachers and park and rec staff are disrupted.

**4. Which of the stay at home or social distance guidelines are you following? Number of respondents: 628.**

	Overall
I follow stay at home guidelines and limit movements outside of my home beyond essential needs and exercise.	77%
I follow stay at home guidelines, but need to work outside of the home	8%
It's hard for me to stay at home all the time, but when I'm out with others, I follow social-distancing guidelines and stay 6 ft away from others at all times	12%
I don't really follow stay at home or social distancing guidelines.	3%

A high percentage (85%) of young people are following the stay at home guideline. In a subset of that category, 8% of youth are staying at home, but leave in order work outside of the home, which increases the risk to themselves and their families of infection. About fourteen percentage (15%) of youth are having trouble following the recommended guidelines to stay at home (12%) or social distance (3%).

As a reference, there are approximately 15,000 youth ages 10-19 in both cities. The 3% who reported they don't really follow stay at home or social distancing guidelines would represent 450 youth.

**5. Do you want someone to follow up with you to answer any questions or direct you to resources? Number of respondents: 616**

	Count	%
Yes	74	12%

About 12% of students expressed that they wanted a follow-up call from the city to answer any possible questions they may have regarding the current situation. Staff at the Zanewood Community Center are coordinating these call-backs to make sure students have their questions answered or are directed to the resources they need. It provides yet another opportunity for city staff to connect and build trust with youth in the community.

**DISCUSSION**

- 1. Over 600 youth responded to our online survey and almost 100 youth have participated in phone interviews.** Through the diligent work of staff at Youth Services (including Zanewood Community Center, Cities United / My Brother’s Keeper, and the BBAY), BrookLynk, and the school district partners at Osseo Area Schools and Brooklyn Center Community Schools, hundreds of youth were surveyed in the short two-week time period. Over 12% of youth respondents asked for a follow-up call from these staff. The relationships youth workers have with young people were essential for understanding what their needs are and informing what our response should be.
- 2. From 26% to 44% of youth (and possibly more) live with or often see someone at higher risk for developing more severe illness from COVID-19.** If and when programs for young

people start up again, and before a vaccine is available, special considerations may be necessary for youth who could potentially place household members at risk. There are opportunities for informing youth about COVID-19 in populations (Asian, Black American, Hispanic or Latino/a) where there is less understanding or misunderstanding about what it is, how it is spread, and how to protect the community.

3. **Youth are worried about the lack of social interactions.** Developmentally, social connection with peers becomes much more important during the adolescent period. And for young people, school is a stable and consistent figure in their lives where they can see and interact with their friends. Now they are experiencing a sudden stop of all of these things because they are not going to school or able to meet up with their friends. The effect of the isolation negatively impacts young people's mental and emotional health, which may cause them to value face-to-face connection with their friends over safety for themselves and their family.
4. **Youth are worried about staying active and healthy.** During the stay at home restrictions, youth are limited from participating in the sports and outdoor activities they are used to. In addition, school physical education and sports, and park and rec programs that they normally participate in are temporarily suspended. And even if they are able to leave their homes to exercise, they are not able to do those activities with their friends.
5. **Youth are worried about employment, money, schoolwork, and their pathway to college.** Many of these youth who responded to the survey are looking to work. For some youth, they are a contributor to their household income, so it is imperative that they have access to a steady employment. Some are BrookLynk interns and have commented on whether or not they would be able to have that experience this summer. Distance learning is a new experience for youth. Many are unmotivated and overwhelmed by having to adjust to the new style of learning. Youth have expressed that it is now up to them to learn everything, where before, they would spend a considerable amount of time doing their work at school. Many youth have reported a desire to have an easier way to get support for their work. For older youth that are in the latter days of high school, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding college applications and testing surrounding the ACT and SAT.
6. **Youth stated their primary needs are for the entire community to follow stay-at-home, social distancing, and hygiene guidelines.** Many youth understand the importance of the public health guidelines to maintain personal, family, and community well-being. As they abide by the guidelines, they also need those in their communities to follow them.
7. **Youth also need family connection, resources such as food, cleaning supplies and masks, and safe opportunities for social interaction with friends.** Youth are facing an unprecedented event in their lives that has affected their whole structure and external supports. They are restricted to being home every day, no longer seeing their friends daily, and tasked with a larger responsibility of maintaining their own education. And beyond just academics, some of these youth are not getting their needs (basic needs, trusted relationships, pro-social skill development, etc.) met that were previously fulfilled at school. The global pandemic threatens their lives and the lives of their family. Youth are seeking assurance that even through the disruption, there is some sort of stability and hope for them.
8. **Most youth (85%) are following stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines right now.** However, as these restrictions are in place longer and summer approaches, there might be more youth who will disregard the warnings to stay away from other people because they want to be outside and to interact with their peers. Some of it will be related to their understanding and belief about COVID-19. The ability to shelter in place also depends on social-economic status. It is much more difficult to stay at home if a young person lives with a large family in a

one bedroom apartment for example. As mentioned before, many youth are craving a return “back to normal”.

## EMERGING RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. *Develop a Youth Centered Public Health Marketing Campaign.*

- ✓ Mobilize partners, especially public health experts, to develop a youth centered marketing campaign to reassure them, connect them to existing opportunities for social interaction, and provide factual public health information and resources so they can make good decisions to protect their health and the health of those around them.

### 2. *Take Action Where We Can – Support Opportunities for Youth Engagement.*

- ✓ Continue to listen to young people through the surveys and interviews via our 2020 Youth to Youth Summer Survey.
- ✓ Continue to support the Brooklyns Youth Council to lead the Youth Adult Summit in June – connecting youth to opportunities and resources like college access, health living etc.
- ✓ Continue to elevate the City of Brooklyn Park’s BP Youth Outreach Team’s – this is an innovative effort to engage youth out in the community and is already proven to be effective in providing youth with public health information and in promoting safety.
- ✓ Support Cities’ Recreation and Parks department plan for summer programs (including Rec on the Go) to include social distancing guidelines and find creative ways to deliver “Summer Sport Packs” to youth to promote physical activity through the Alliance Youth Sports Initiative.

### 4. *Engage Partners to Leverage Resources and Maximize Impact*

- ✓ **Alliance Partners.** Bring partners together to hear these results and explore both individual and collective action to respond to needs:
  - I need to / Everyone needs to follow stay-at-home, social distancing, hygiene guidelines
  - Need to know that family is safe / family connected to well-being
  - Food, grocery, cleaning, PPE supplies or non-surgical masks
  - Social interaction with friends
- ✓ **Hennepin County Public Health.** We are exploring opportunities to leverage County resources to support youth identified needs. We hope to tap into their public health expertise to help guide and develop effective strategies to prevent community spread, implement educational marketing campaigns, recommend policies, administer services, and partner to continue conducting research.
- ✓ **School Districts.** We will engage our school district partners to continue their efforts to support learning, deliver food, and provide critical access via district issued devices and Wi-Fi. There are already efforts with Osseo Area Schools and Brooklyn Center Community Schools to address computer and internet access gaps in the community, especially at apartments complexes. We will also work with schools to ensure that devices can be made available to students over the summer, to ensure that students can engage in summer learning and supports from programs such as BrookLynk.
- ✓ **Private Sector Partners:** The availability of jobs for our youth, and overall family well-being, is dependent on the functioning of our business community. We should explore

opportunities to work with our business community to support their reopening in a timely and safe manner.

## APPENDIX: SELECT COMMENTS

### What do you need during this time to feel safe and to take care of yourself and your family?

#### *Nothing / We're fine*

- Don't need much. All I'm doing to stay safe right now is staying inside, washing my hands more often, and being careful for things that have a possibility of being infected.
- I feel that I am very well taken care of. My teachers dropped everything off to me.
- Not for me specifically but my parent still must go to work which stresses me out.
- I feel safe at home and well taken care of, so I don't need anything during this time

#### *Social Distancing Guidelines*

- For everyone to follow the guidelines set in place, and stay home! A lot of people aren't taking this seriously and it's so frustrating
- I'd love for this pandemic to be handled seriously.
- Staying home to protect myself and family
- Stay in my house but sometimes go for walks.

#### *Need to know that family is safe / family connected to well-being*

- During this time, I just need my family to feel safe.
- For my family to listen to me more about the importance of washing your hands for TWENTY SECONDS
- Luckily we have what we need. My dad is out of work and my mom is helping at the schools in the childcare for emergency workers. She says its fine, but I worry about her.
- Not for me specifically but my parent still has to go to work which stresses me out.
- I don't need much to be honest. I guess I need to know or make sure my parents are okay, I'm more concern about them than anything else.

#### *Food and Grocery Supplies*

- Money, Hand Sanitizer, toilet paper, mask, gloves, food, water and more safety and regulation for employees of stores and eatery's and to make sure my dog has safe dog food to eat and pet care
- Grocery stores stocked with food and supplies, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies, etc.

#### *Social Interactions*

- To be able to see my best friend
- I honestly feel like I need to see my friends because I am getting really depressed
- Wish (I) could go outside and be with friends more often

#### *Reassurance*

- I need to have the feeling that everything will be fine and back to at least normal again.
- I just want people telling us it's going to be ok and that they are doing all they can to stop the spread
- To have reassurance that this, too, shall pass. Whether that be from a friend or the news, I just don't want to feel trapped.
- I'd love for this pandemic to be handle seriously with along with hoping this all of this will be over soon. So that everyone can go back to their normal lives before this virus outbreak.
- I need to have the feeling that everything will be fine and back to at least normal again.

### *Mental Health*

- I feel safe. But very unconnected from other kids so mentally could do better.
- Help mentally and with my schoolwork
- Therapy sessions

### *Regarding School*

- A better understanding of school and maybe like something calming so I don't stress as much.
- School work is probably the number one thing I will need help with due to being a senior and I'm not sure how the school will be okay with this outbreak.
- Just more confidence when it comes to doing my schoolwork and motivation.
- I just need to make sure that my sisters and I have the access needed to complete our schoolwork.
- For our school district to not cancel graduation. Postpone if need be, but don't cancel.
- Nothing. I just need to talk to my friends and go to school. It's very confusing to do work at home. I'm not understanding. Or maybe I am. I'm not sure.  
Reassurance every once in a while from teachers really helps.

### *Employment*

- I am currently the only one working in my household due to many people being laid off and I'm someone who thinks ahead in most financial situations and I have personally been relying on my summer internship when dealing with how I portion my money for savings, gas, phone bill, household items etc. So, it would be nice if BrookLynk gave us updates, even if it's, "going along as planned," so we at least have an idea of possibly what to expect.
- A job that protects me and others.