

STAYING SAFE DURING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A brief guide for community health workers



Always let a coworker or supervisor know your outreach plan.

This should include:

- Where you are going
- What time you will leave
- What time you will be back

Work in pairs whenever you can.

Plan your outreach event or home visit.



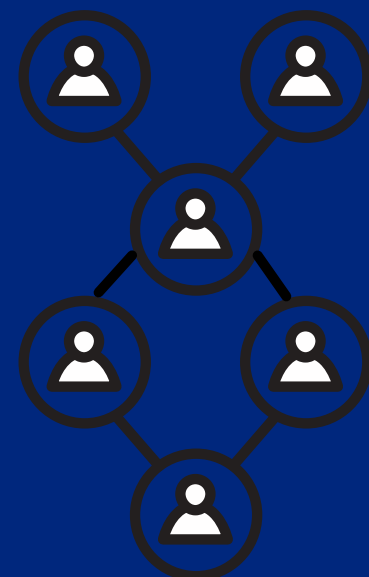
- Map out the area and route before you go
- Schedule all outreach begin and end during daylight hours
- If possible, drive by the area where you will be going in advance to look for potential hazards including:
 - Damaged sidewalks and streets
 - Blighted lots and houses
 - Public drinking or drug use
 - Stray dogs
- Before a home visit:
 - Ask the person you are visiting who will be there when you arrive
 - Have them tell others who will be in the house that you are coming so no one is surprised

Before you leave for your outreach event or home visit:



- Dress appropriately for the event and weather conditions
- Put any valuables in the trunk of your car. Do NOT do this when you arrive
- Leave plenty of time to get to the site
- Call location contact or person you are visiting if you are running late
- Make sure you have phone numbers for
 - Location contact
 - Person whose home you are visiting (if applicable)
 - Supervisor and coworkers

During your outreach event or home visit:



- Park as close as possible to where you are going, and near a streetlight, if possible
- Keep your cell phone in your pocket or somewhere that you can reach it quickly
- Be aware of your surroundings, and look for hazards as you approach the outreach location or home

When you arrive for a home visit:

- Introduce yourself, and confirm that this is still a good time for the visit
- Ask who else is home so that no one is surprised
- Try to sit near an exit and in a place where you have a full view of the room



If you feel unsafe at any time, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

Make sure to call your supervisor and/or coworkers to check-in after any outreach or home visit.