

TALKING ABOUT THE VIRUS WITH CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT AGES: HELPFUL TIPS



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UNAIDS

PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE: KEEP IT SIMPLE AND SHORT



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TALKING ABOUT THE VIRUS WITH CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT AGES: HELPFUL TIPS. PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE: KEEP IT SIMPLE AND SHORT

- Focus on the safety and well-being of the child and their family
- Tell the child that adults – doctors, teachers, and parents – are doing everything possible to make sure that everyone is well and to take care of those who need help
- Assure the child that most people will recover and that most children who contract the coronavirus will get well quickly and easily



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PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE: KEEP IT SIMPLE AND SHORT

Help them take control by showing specific steps they can take to fight the virus



avoid touching face



sneeze,
cough properly



wash hands
the right way

You may want to pick a song to make it easier and fun to lather their hands, e.g. humming *Happy Birthday to You* twice will take approximately the required 20 seconds



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MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE:
TELL THEM MORE ABOUT
HOW THE VIRUS CAN IMPACT
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MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE:

TELL THEM MORE ABOUT HOW THE VIRUS CAN IMPACT ON THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE

- Explain that restrictions and inconveniences are temporary
- Discuss everyone's personal responsibility
- Make it clear why they should not get together with friends to go to movies or visit their grandparents for a while
- Help them figure out what sources of information can and cannot be trusted



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MIDDLE SCHOOL AGE:

TELL THEM MORE ABOUT HOW THE VIRUS CAN IMPACT ON THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE

- Discuss fears, stereotypes, and ethical behavior towards those affected by the virus
- Share positive stories
For example, how many people have already recovered, how scientists are working to develop a vaccine, how people around the world are helping one another



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HIGH SCHOOL AGE: NO NEED TO SIMPLIFY THINGS TOO MUCH



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HIGH SCHOOL AGE: NO NEED TO SIMPLIFY THINGS TOO MUCH

- Discuss things on an equal footing
- Stock up on arguments
- For example, gather research data, statistics and vaccine updates



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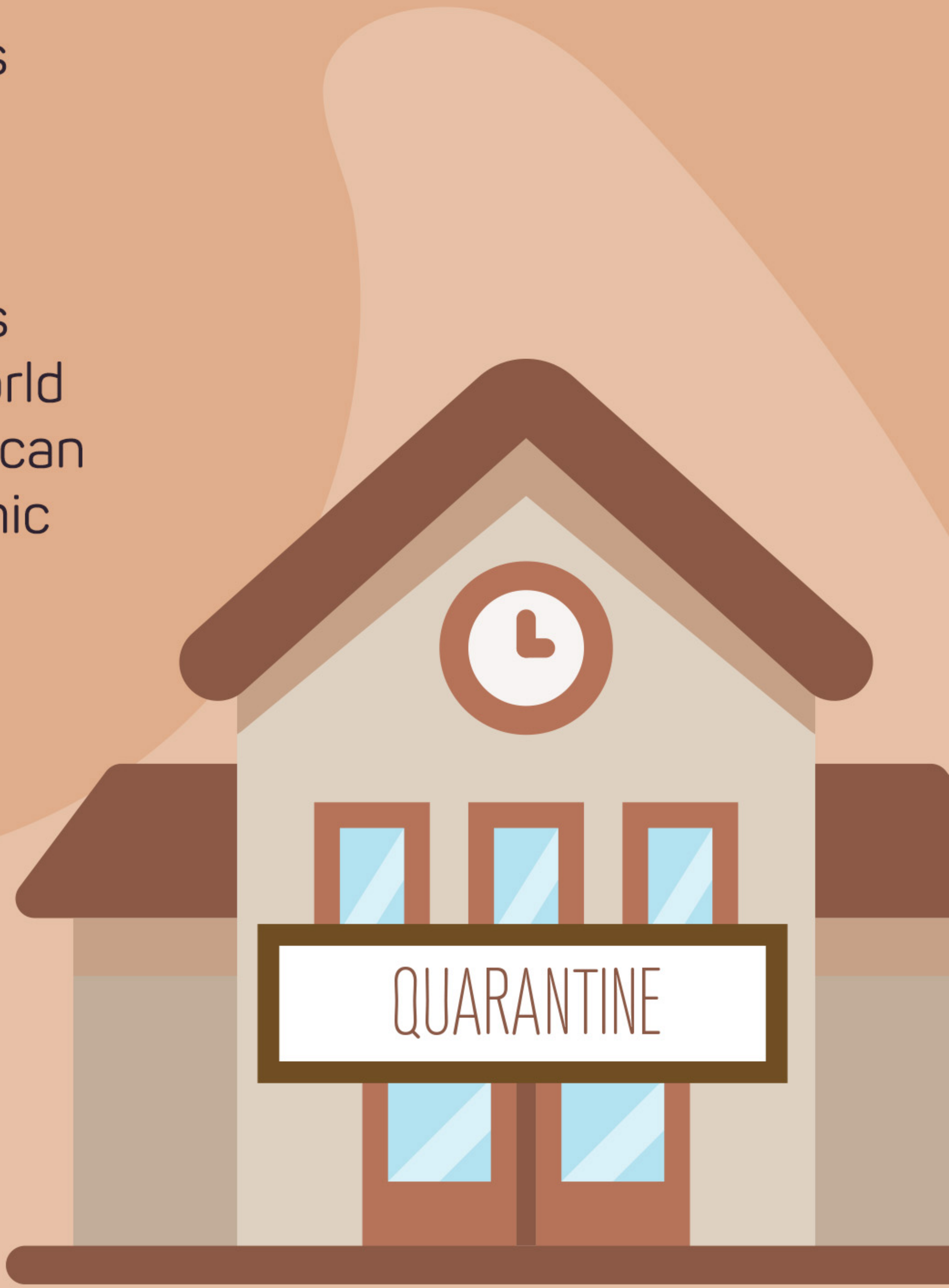


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HIGH SCHOOL AGE: NO NEED TO SIMPLIFY THINGS TOO MUCH

- Explain why countries close schools and quarantine people
- Discuss how the virus impacts the entire world and what lessons we can learn from the epidemic response



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