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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 in 3 U.S. homes with children under 18 has a firearm.</th>
<th>Over 54,000 children and youth* are injured or killed by firearms each year.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43% of these homes have an unlocked firearm.</td>
<td>That equals 148 children or youth a day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 3 in 4 children age 5 to 14 know where firearms are kept in their home. | In 2018, 48% of all youth suicides involved a firearm. |

| Unintentional shootings account for 15% of all firearm deaths in children under 15. | In 2 out of 3 cases when a child or youth used a family member’s firearm to commit suicide, the firearm was kept unlocked. |
| Children as young as 3 years old are strong enough to fire a handgun. | |

*Youth are defined as ages 15-24 unless otherwise defined
What are safe storage options?

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

**Sources**

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

- **Take Apart Firearm.**
  - Description: Take apart the firearm.
  - Source: injcenter.umich.edu
- **Cable Lock.**
  - Description: Do not install around the trigger. May be available free from local police.
  - Source: amazon.com ($7-$20)
- **Trigger Lock.**
  - Description: Do not use on a loaded gun.
  - Source: amazon.com ($6-$35)
- **Lock Box.**
  - Description: Store ammunition separately. Only adults should have access.
  - Source: amazon.com and Dick’s Sporting Goods ($20-$100+)
- **Gun Safe.**
  - Description: Store ammunition separately.
  - Source: The Home Depot ($80+)
- **If you are in crisis, or know someone who is struggling or in a crisis:**
  - Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 OR text HOME to 741741 to text with a crisis counselor.

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

**Injury Prevention Center**

injurycenter.umich.edu  UMIInjuryCenter@umich.edu  childfirearmsafety.org  facts-team@umich.edu