Safe Touches: Overview for Project Safe and Smart

The Safe Touches Program

What is the purpose of this program?
- Teach 2nd graders the difference between *safe* and *not-safe* touches, whom to tell if they have experienced a *not-safe* touch
- Workshop uses puppets and interactive scenes teaching children 4 key safety steps: Trust your feelings; Try to say no; Try to walk away; and Tell an adult
- Interactive scenes cover: identifying private parts of the body; labeling *safe* touches and *not-safe* touches; and talking to parents and trusted adults about *not-safe* touches

Is Safe Touches effective? Yes.
- A randomized controlled trial was conducted in NYC public elementary schools (Pulido et al., 2015), which indicated that students who received the workshop had greater knowledge of inappropriate touch and 2nd graders showed the greatest gains
- As part of the Safe and Healthy Communities Initiative, over 14,000 2nd graders in 5 counties received Safe Touches and showed a significant increase in CSA-related knowledge and gains were maintained 12-months post workshop (Guastaferro et al., under review)

How is Safe Touches delivered? Safe Touches is available in two modalities: in-person or virtual (remote)

In-Person	*Virtual*
• 45-minute workshop in the classroom given by two trained facilitators	• 45-minute workshop given by one trained facilitator
	• Uses interactive video conferencing software (e.g., Zoom, Google Classroom)

Program Evaluation

Providers of Safe Touches will administer a brief 6-item survey after the workshop, the purpose of which is to evaluate student's mastery of knowledge learned in the workshop
  - Ex.: "A pat on the back from a teacher you like after you've done a good job at school is a safe touch"
- The survey is administered either as a paper survey (in-person) or as an anonymous link (virtual)
- Provider agencies will enter in de-identified paper survey data to a web-based platform
- Penn State will provide aggregate data reports to provider agencies on a quarterly basis

How will participant data be protected? All data will be de-identified and no individual responses will be reported or shared

The Schools

What are we asking schools to do?
- Assist with scheduling the Safe Touches workshop in either the in-person or virtual modalities
- Provide classroom time for a 60-minute visit (workshop plus brief post-assessment)

What do schools get in return?
- Each participating classroom will receive aggregate program evaluation data at the end of the academic year
- Upon request, a pre-recorded webinar providing an overview of curriculum for parents can be made available

If you have additional questions about the implementation of Safe Touches as part of Project Safe and Smart, please contact Dr. Kate Guastaferro (kmg55@psu.edu).