

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nation's Public-Private Partnership for Suicide Prevention to Hold Press Call on Mental Health Impact of COVID-19 on High-Risk Populations

Leading experts convene to discuss need to promote help-seeking and prevention

With millions of Americans experiencing negative impacts on their mental and emotional well-being as a result of COVID-19, some populations already at high-risk for suicide—including [LGBTQ youth](#), [minority populations](#), and [older adults](#)—may be experiencing even more prominent mental health challenges. For example, due to physical distancing mandates, LGBTQ youth have seen a decrease in positive social interactions. Minority populations, specifically [Black communities](#), are dealing with the mental health impacts of the pandemic, but also are confronting racial trauma and inequity now at the forefront of public discourse. Older adults, particularly those in senior care facilities, are at higher risk for infection and are dealing with increased isolation and loneliness. Mental health services, evidence-based treatments, and social supports have never been more important—and are available. It's critical that individuals within these high-risk populations who are struggling or are in crisis are connected with the help and resources they need and deserve.

To assist journalists in generating stories about hope, help-seeking, and prevention, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention will host a 30-minute, media-only call for reporters that will:

- connect them with some of the nation's leading subject matter experts in the mental health and suicide prevention space;
- help generate story ideas that continue to promote help-seeking and prevention; and
- provide guidance about best practices for reporting on suicide and mental health.

WHO:

- **Ms. Colleen Carr**, Director, National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, Education Development Center (*moderator*)
- **Dr. Ken Duckworth**, Chief Medical Officer, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **Dr. Michael Lindsey**, Executive Director, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, New York University
- **Mr. Amit Paley**, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, The Trevor Project
- **Dr. Jerry Reed**, Senior Vice President of Practice Leadership, Education Development Center

WHEN: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. EDT

RSVP: Email Maureen Iselin (miselin@edc.org) to receive dial-in information.

The media call series is part of the Action Alliance's [Mental Health & Suicide Prevention National Response to COVID-19 \(National Response\)](#). For more information about reporting on suicide, visit ReportingonSuicide.org.