

Remote AND Hands-On: Informal Environmental Health Education in a Socially-Distanced World

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Informal Env. Health education in a pandemic

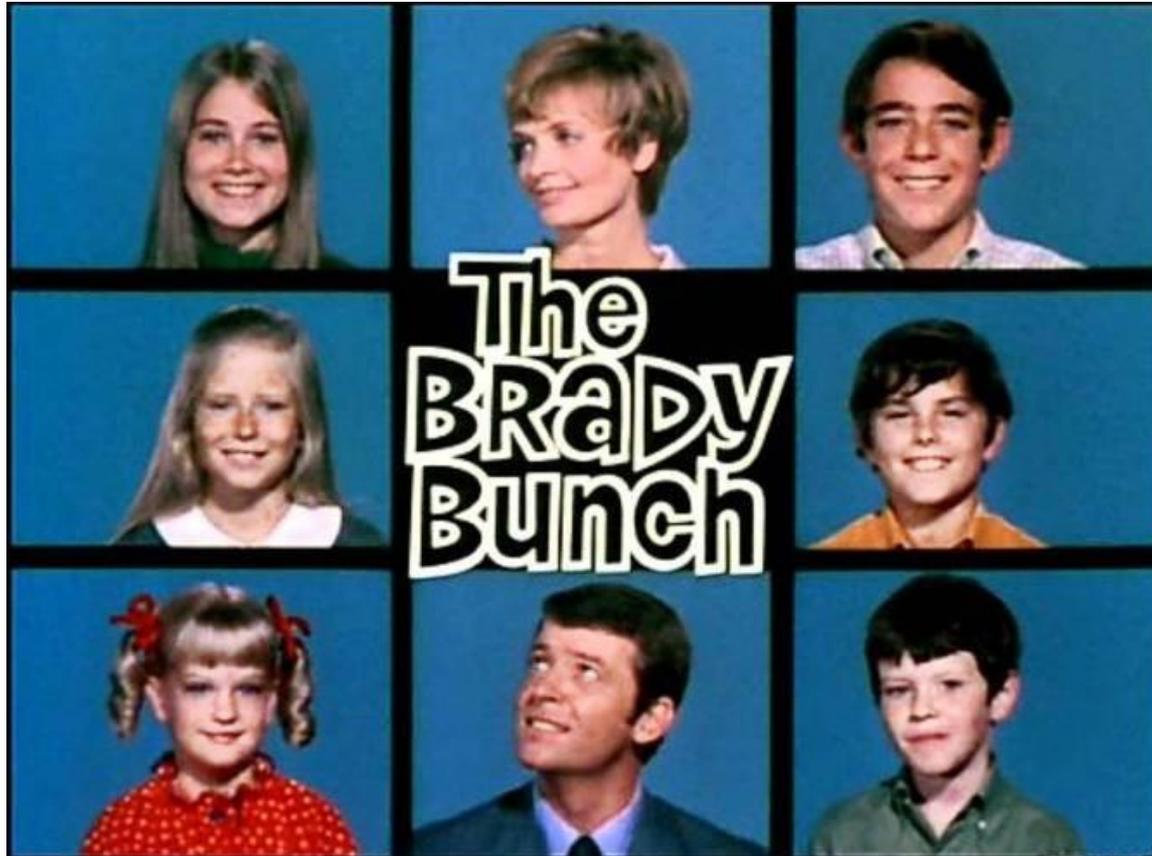
1. There are restrictions on where we can go and how we can interact with partners
2. Community partners facing ongoing demands and new challenges
 - How can we support them remotely?
 - Provide direct resources/programming
 - Model/train to inform their efforts (indirect)
 - Focus on building and retaining relationships with partners (can we help?)



Informal Env. Health Education BEFORE COVID-19



Informal Env. Health Education AFTER COVID-19



Informal Env. Health Education In EHSC

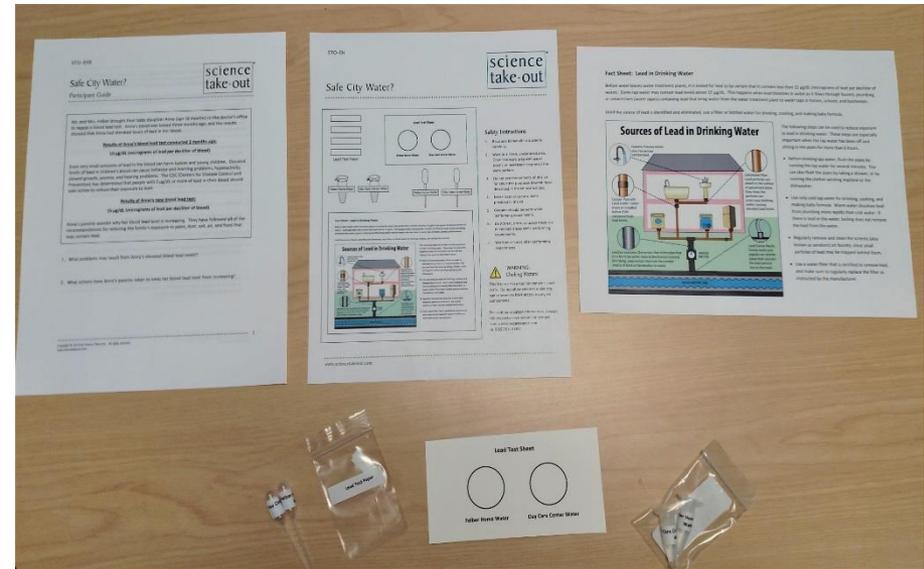
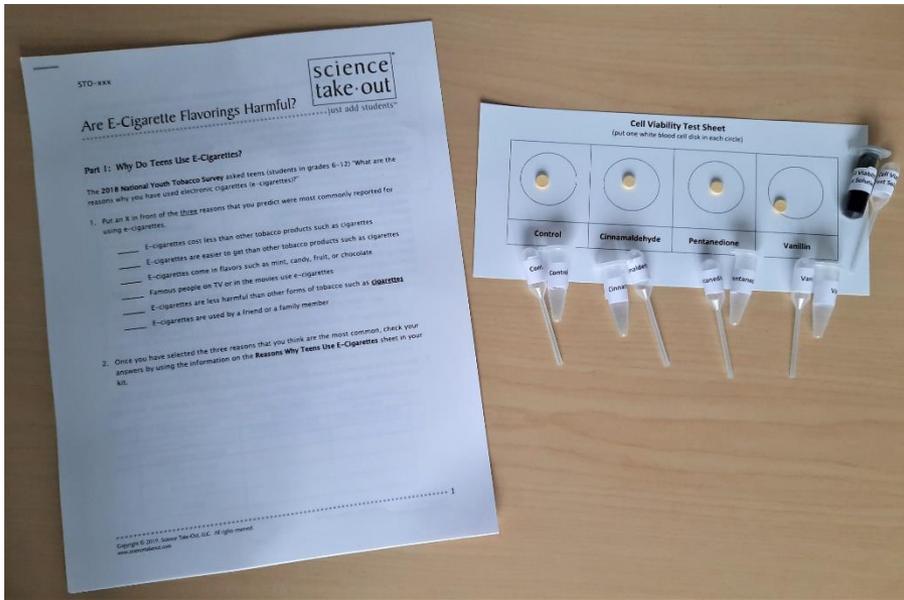
- Ongoing efforts to develop, pilot, and disseminate hands-on science kits
- Partnership with “Science Take Out”
- Developed 8 “community” env. health kits
- Piloting new “vaping” kits
- Can we continue this work while helping partners provide interactive EH experiences to their clients/students...remotely?



Science Take-Out Kits

Vaping Education

Safe City Water



The Offer

- Presentation to local community groups via zoom
- Emailing community groups
- Reaching out to colleagues
- Word of mouth



Logistics

- How to get materials to participants
 - Mailing kits and facilitator distribution
- Technology challenges
 - Access to equipment
 - Zoom connections
 - Microphones
 - Lights
 - Camera orientation during experiments



Safe City Water: Group Participants Via ZOOM

- Rochester Museum & Science Center

Eco-nauts Science Camp

- Day camp at museum
- Middle schoolers
- Learning about the environment, contamination, conservation, ect.



Lessons Learned

Group Participants Via ZOOM

- Meet with facilitator (via zoom or phone) beforehand to discuss needs and expectations
- Coordinate materials and confirm materials are received
- Work with the on site facilitator to:
 - Test zoom, mic, computer, camera
 - Make sure computer camera is set up so you can see participants
 - There is a microphone and/or the facilitator to restate questions and answers
- Make sure everyone has their own working surface and is socially distances
- Everyone gets their own set of materials



Safe City Water: Individual Participants Via ZOOM

- Seneca Park Zoo- Urban Ecologist Program
 - 2-year program workforce development program
 - High school students
 - Focuses on the Rochester community, promoting a healthy, positive relationship with Rochester's natural spaces and the biodiversity that uses them.



Vaping: Individual Participants Via Zoom

- 2 workshops
 - ALA Reality Check in NJ (tri-state area)
 - ALA Reality Check in the Plattsburg, NY (across from VT and just south of Montreal)
 - <http://www.realitycheckofny.com/aboutus>



Lessons Learned: Individual Participants Via ZOOM

- Meet with facilitator (via zoom or phone) prior to discuss needs and expectations
- Coordinate materials, dates, times
- Send out zoom links and calendar invites
- Confirm materials are received and disseminated to participants
- Send **basic instructions** for all participants for preparation of event
- Test zoom, camera, lights, microphone
- Ask beforehand if you can record- parental permission may be needed



Basic Instructions for ALL Participants

1. Find a quiet place with a flat surface to work on.
2. Keep your camera on if you can.
3. Keep yourself unmuted if you can.
4. If you have questions, ask them!
5. Use the chat box function if you can not unmute.



Vaping: Group Participants In Person

- Girl Scouts in Rochester, NY
 - In person community engagement
 - Following NYS, CDC, URMC, and GSA COVID-19 guidelines
 - Outside at a park
 - 6 participants- one per table
 - Masks
 - Hand sanitizer



Lessons Learned Group participants in person

- Follow CDC, organizations, and institutions guidelines.
 - Double check with supervisor or institutional leadership on what is ok and not ok!
- Wear a mask and bring gloves and hand sanitizer!
- No eating or drinking.
- Make sure everyone has their own working surface and is socially distances
- Everyone gets their own set of materials
- Have garbage bags to fill and tie up (wearing a mask and gloves) to dispose of any garbage.



Overall,

- Be thoughtful with planning logistics – the devil is in the details
- Be creative and flexible! (have a backup plan)
- Remote community engagement is DOABLE but it is HARD...
- ...and, it is IMPORTANT for supporting and sustaining our partners in this time

