

safe²tell™ Colorado

Safe2Tell Spring Newsletter

April 2021

[Visit the Safe2Tell CO Website](#)

Welcome to Safe2Tell's (S2T) spring newsletter.

Oh wow! What a year! Full time remote learning, part time in-person learning, synchronous and asynchronous learning, hybrid learning, whoa! We appreciate the challenges Colorado School Districts, teachers and students have faced this past year.



Most educators never imagined having to teach half their class in person with the other half of the class watching from home. Just as students likely never planned on not being able to play with friends or see their grandparents for months. And for the majority of parents, they probably never anticipated having to turn their kitchens into home schools. In summary, it has been a year full of unprecedented challenges.

Resilience and perseverance. These powerful words evoke so many emotions pertaining to the past year. One thing we took comfort in, was the knowledge that we were all in this together. And we still are, even as life slowly starts to carve out a "new normal". One thing to remember moving forward though, is that the full impact pandemic-related social distancing and isolation has had on mental health is still unknown.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, S2T was fortunate enough to be able to address some of the pandemic-related mental health concerns in a series of [public service announcements](#) geared toward youth, that aired on radio and television stations throughout the state last fall. However, for someone who is in more than a rut and silently struggling, it may take more than just seeing an ad to nudge them towards help. If you know someone, including yourself, who could benefit from support for concerns like anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts or substance use, or who just needs to talk, please encourage him/her/yourself to consider contacting Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255. It is confidential and free. And, don't forget to remind him/her/you, that it is courageous to ask for help!

Inside this edition of the S2T Spring 2021 newsletter, you will find a frequently requested refresher about the S2T tip process, an introduction to S2T's new program director, and dates of upcoming S2T trainings. As always, we enjoy hearing from you and welcome questions and comments about this edition as well as any ideas for future ones. You can

submit feedback [here](#).

Thank you again for supporting our program! Throughout the next month as schools begin to transition into summer break, please take an opportunity to remind everyone about S2T and that even when schools are closed, S2T is available 24/7 to take tips about safety concerns. Stay safe and congratulations on surviving the 2020-2021 school year!



Meet Safe2Tell Director Stacey Jenkins

In March of 2021, Stacey Jenkins was appointed as S2T's new director. After serving as the program's manager since 2018 and as interim director since October 2020, Stacey was a natural choice for the job given her education and professional background.

When asked why she was initially interested in the position, Jenkins responded,

"Safe2Tell is a natural fit for me, because it combines my passion for education with a powerful resource for students to report safety concerns in their school and community."

S2T has experienced a decrease in tips throughout this school year. According to Jenkins,

"The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to quickly pivot to remote and hybrid learning models in March 2020. This limited the awareness students had about the day to day struggles their peers were facing, which caused a reduction in concerns reported to our program. Our program continues to be focused on making Colorado youth aware that Safe2Tell is available 24/7, 365 even during school breaks."

Under Jenkins' leadership, S2T continues to strengthen and expand relationships with stakeholders.

"Safe2Tell is a successful prevention and intervention program because of partners invested in the safety of Colorado schools and communities. Partners including schools, teachers, parents, law enforcement and students who speak up, are committed to using Safe2Tell as a resource to keep themselves, their friends and their communities safe," added Jenkins.

Welcome Stacey! One important thing to note is that Stacey enjoys connecting with stakeholders and welcomes hearing from you, anytime! You can email Stacey [here](#). As schools and communities begin to loosen restrictions and start to resume pre-pandemic activities, S2T's [data reports](#) indicate that our tip volume is increasing as the program continues to remind students that if they do not have a trusted adult that they can talk to about a safety concern, S2T is a safe and anonymous option!

S2T Refresher for Schools

Every Public School in Colorado is Part of the S2T Program

· Each school predetermines the members of their S2T team (those who

are listed as contacts in the P3 system and receive the S2T tips).

- S2T school teams are typically comprised of school administrators, counselors, resource officers, and personnel from the district security and mental health units.
- School teams view every S2T tip and determine a course of action.
- Changes or updates to school team membership can be requested [here](#).

S2T School Team Disclosure

- Schools may disclose to involved parties that they received anonymous information about a safety concern.
- Schools may disclose to involved parties the nature of the safety concern.
- Schools are not required to disclose that the information came from a S2T tip.

S2T School Tip Handling

- Schools should not print or make a copy of the S2T report.
- Schools should not email a copy of the S2T report to anyone, including to other members of the authorized S2T school team.
- Schools should not put a copy of a S2T report into a student's academic file.
- Schools should not show the report to anyone outside of the authorized S2T school team, including students and parents/guardians.
- Schools may initiate a student threat assessment based on information received via a S2T report, but the actual S2T tip and its content may not be included in the student's threat assessment, IEP or academic records.
- Schools may share any new and revealing information that surfaces during the S2T tip investigation process, as that information is not protected by anonymity.

For additional information and guidance, S2T school teams should access the P3 Recipient User Guide, found [here](#).

S2T Program Administration Role

- S2T is the conduit of information between the reporting party to a school's predetermined S2T team and/or law enforcement.
- S2T does not investigate the tips or regulate how schools and/or law enforcement conduct their investigations.
- S2T does not categorize tips but instead relies on S2T teams and/or law enforcement to categorize each tip based on its nature and the outcome of the subsequent investigation.
- S2T collects data for each school year, which begins August 1 and ends on July 31 the following year.
- S2T does not publicly share data pertaining to school districts or individual schools.
- S2T does publish aggregate data that encompasses the entire state. Monthly and annual data reports can be found [here](#).



...Did You Know...

- SafezTell is open 24/7, 365 days a year
- All information about a tipster's personal identity remains ANONYMOUS
- SafezTell does not investigate any tips
- All SafezTell tips are sent simultaneously to both the police & to the school
- Tip investigation, intervention & prevention efforts are coordinated between law enforcement & school multidisciplinary teams
- From beginning to end, tip handling & all information collected throughout the process remains confidential

Special shout out to Mark Giordano
from United Advertising Corporation
and Nancy O'Dorisio from Forté

Advertising for helping spread awareness of the S2T program.



*A LED digital billboard in downtown Denver plays a S2T public service announcement
PHOTO CREDIT: Lawrence Pacheco*

UPCOMING TRAININGS!!

April 23- Virtual S2T Trainer session

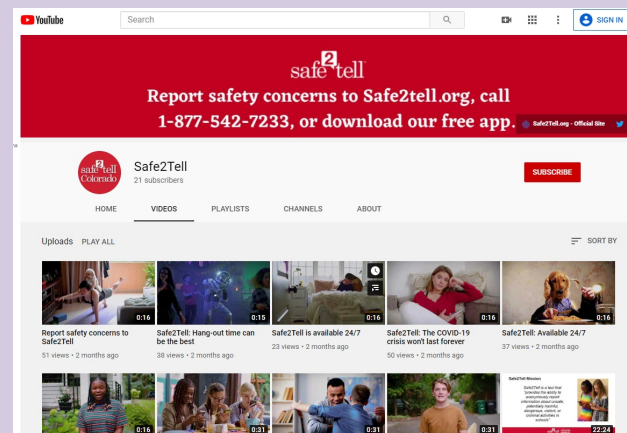
May 19- Safe2Tell FAQs webinar

June 22- Virtual S2T Trainer session

Please reach out to Mark Lanning at (720) 508-6809 or Mark.Lanning@coag.gov for more information.

Did You Know?

S2T has a [YouTube Channel](#) where you can access all kinds of videos and training resources? There, you can also check out our award winning public service announcements, produced by Janicek Media.



Helpful Information, Articles & Blogs

Making Physical Activity a Part of a Child's Life

<https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/adding-pa/activities-children.html>

School-Based Mental Health Services: Improving Student Learning and Well-Being

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/mental-health/school-psychology-and-mental-health/school-based-mental-health-services>

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Adolescence

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/parental-resource-kit/adolescence.html>

COVID-19 And Loneliness: When It Seems Like No One Cares

<https://mhanational.org/covid-19-and-loneliness-when-it-seems-no-one-cares>

Shareable Resources on Coping with COVID-19

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/get-involved/education-awareness/shareable-resources-on-coping-with-covid-19.shtml>



CALL WEB APP

**ANONYMOUSLY
REPORT
SAFETY
CONCERNS**

1-877-542-7233
safe2tell.org

A hand holds a smartphone displaying the Safe2Tell Colorado app interface. The screen shows a large red '2' in a speech bubble, the text 'Safe2Tell Colorado', and buttons for 'Submit a Tip', 'Review / Update Existing Tip', 'Call Hotline', 'Resources', and 'Logout'.

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STATE OF COLORADO

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Colorado

HOME LAND SECURITY
PROTECTION & PROTECTION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE & RECOVERY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Everyday we remember those who have experienced [acts of violence](#) in schools across the U.S. *Safe2Tell Colorado is a state-funded program of the Colorado Office of the Attorney General, with support from the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Information Analysis Center and together, we pledge to continue championing student safety & working to prevent future tragedies.*

Inquiries for the Safe2Tell administrative office:

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STAY CONNECTED

