



Take Action: Email a State or Local Leader

We are in an unprecedented moment in our history. Beyond impacting their everyday lives and experiences, this pandemic will shape young people's faith in government and how responsive it is to community needs. **That's why, in the midst of all of this, we want students to hear loud and clear: in a crisis, our democracy doesn't pause.** At this moment, our young people have thoughts, feelings, and reactions - and we know civics can provide students with an authentic space and guidance to express those responses and use their voices.

TIP: This discussion may bring up many emotions, thoughts, feelings, and reactions. Prior to engaging your child in this activity, consider reaching out to your school social worker and reviewing **Talking to Students About Coronavirus** (<https://bit.ly/2wEUs1>).

Steps

1. **LISTEN** to at least three state and/or local briefings by your Governor and/or Mayor.
2. **DISCUSS** the information you hear and how it impacts you and your family.
 - o What information was most important for you, your family, and your community?
 - o What is most concerning to you and your family right now? Was this information addressed? If so, do you feel it was a sufficient/appropriate response?
3. **WRITE** an email or letter to your official. Use the attached template as a guide to draft an email or letter to the Governor and/or Mayor.
4. **SEND** your email or letter to the Governor and/or Mayor. Use your state or local government website to find the best email address or mailing address.
 - o Since elected officials receive frequent emails, many have a "Contact Us" feature on their website where residents can share their concerns or requests. For example, the Rhode Island Governor's website has a "Contact Us" page where you can either "copy and paste" your email or attach the letter as a PDF.
5. **POST** a screenshot or photo of your letter on social media.
 - o Don't forget to add #democracydoesntpause and tag @generationcitizen on Instagram or @gencitizen on Twitter.
 - o Consider including a call to action for your followers to retweet, repost, or send their own message.
 - o **Tag the Governor and/or Mayor - they may respond!**