



Spring 2020

# PTCI communicator

## Beware of scammers trying to exploit COVID-19 fears

Scammers use every opportunity to try and trick you out of money or personal information, and the COVID-19 pandemic is a case in point.

**The U.S. Attorney General issued a warning about these coronavirus scams:**

- Individuals and businesses are advertising and selling fake cures and vaccines for COVID-19 online and engaging in other forms of fraud.
- Phishing emails are being sent from entities posing as the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Malicious websites and apps appear to share coronavirus-related information in order to gain access to your devices and lock them until payment is received.
- Scammers are seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations.

Other reported scams related to COVID-19 include fake e-commerce sites claiming to sell supplies such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and masks. Scammers take your money but never send the supplies.

**PTCI urges you to watch out for these types of scams, and rely only on reputable sources for the products and information you need.**

**PTCI**  
PO Box 1188, Guymon, OK 73942  
800.562.2556 | [ptci.net/canadian](http://ptci.net/canadian)

**Office Closure**  
May 25 – Memorial Day

## PTCI honored as Business of the Year



PTCI Texas Operations Customer Service Manager, Deblen Francis, receives the Business of the Year award from Canadian Chamber of Commerce President, Sherry Talley, along with PTCI Canadian Customer Service Representative, Claudia Chacon, at the 2020 Canadian Chamber of Commerce Banquet in March.

In 2018, PTCI began working on our bid to bring fiber capable of gigabit speeds to Canadian. Later that year, PTCI was awarded the contract by the Economic Development Council and immediately began construction on the project. All three phases of the construction project are completed with the splicing scheduled to be finished in May 2020 — two years ahead of schedule.

## PTCI 2020 Scholarship Recipients



**Alessandra Huizar**  
Spearman High School  
Texas Woman's University



**Laura Araujo Ramirez**  
Perryton High School  
Texas Tech University



**Scarlett Shields**  
Spearman High School  
Frank Phillips College



**Stephen Pulliam**  
Canadian High School  
Baylor University



**Sydney Fishburn**  
Spearman High School  
West Texas A&M University

**\$1,000 given to local high school seniors to attend college or trade school.**

**Each year PTCI awards \$5000 in scholarships**



## How to safely stay connected

During these ever-changing times, you may find it difficult to maintain connections with family, friends, and coworkers due to social distancing guidelines.

### Here are some useful tools to help:

- **Video Apps:** Apps like Zoom, Marco Polo, Skype, and FaceTime let you participate in video calls so you can see who you're speaking to – whether one person or a group.
- **Voice Apps:** Skype, Discord, and WhatsApp have voice-only calling options so you can make calls over WiFi instead of your cellular service. They also include instant messaging, which is like sending a text message over your internet connection.
- **Social Media:** Sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram help you stay connected with a large number of your friends and family via instant messaging and viewing their posts. They can also help update you on the news, but focus on trusted news sources. Not everything you read on social media is true!

**Remember, PTCI is here for you, continuing to provide reliable internet and cellular service to keep you connected to your world.**

# Resources to help kids learn while stuck at home

With schools closed to halt the spread of COVID-19, you may be looking for ways to keep your kids busy with learning while you're busy trying to work from home (and keep your sanity). Check out these websites that teachers often recommend.

## Preschool and Elementary School

**Funbrain:** It offers games, videos, and books by grade level, from pre-K through eighth grade.

**Khan Academy Kids:** Khan Academy has courses for all ages, but provides a specialized program for children ages 2-7.

**PBS Kids:** Kids can watch videos and play online games centered on different topics. You can sign up for a newsletter to get daily activities and tips.

**History for Kids:** This online network features games, videos, and worksheets on many historical events.

**Squiggle Park:** Personalized reading-skills games and an app built by literacy experts can be found on this site.

**National Geographic Kids:** A great place to watch videos and learn about animals, history, science, and space.

**LEGO Challenge Cards:** This giant collection of LEGO challenge cards sneaks STEM learning into playtime.

**If increased internet demands at home are causing slowdowns and buffering, call 800.562.2556 and ask us about an internet speed upgrade.**

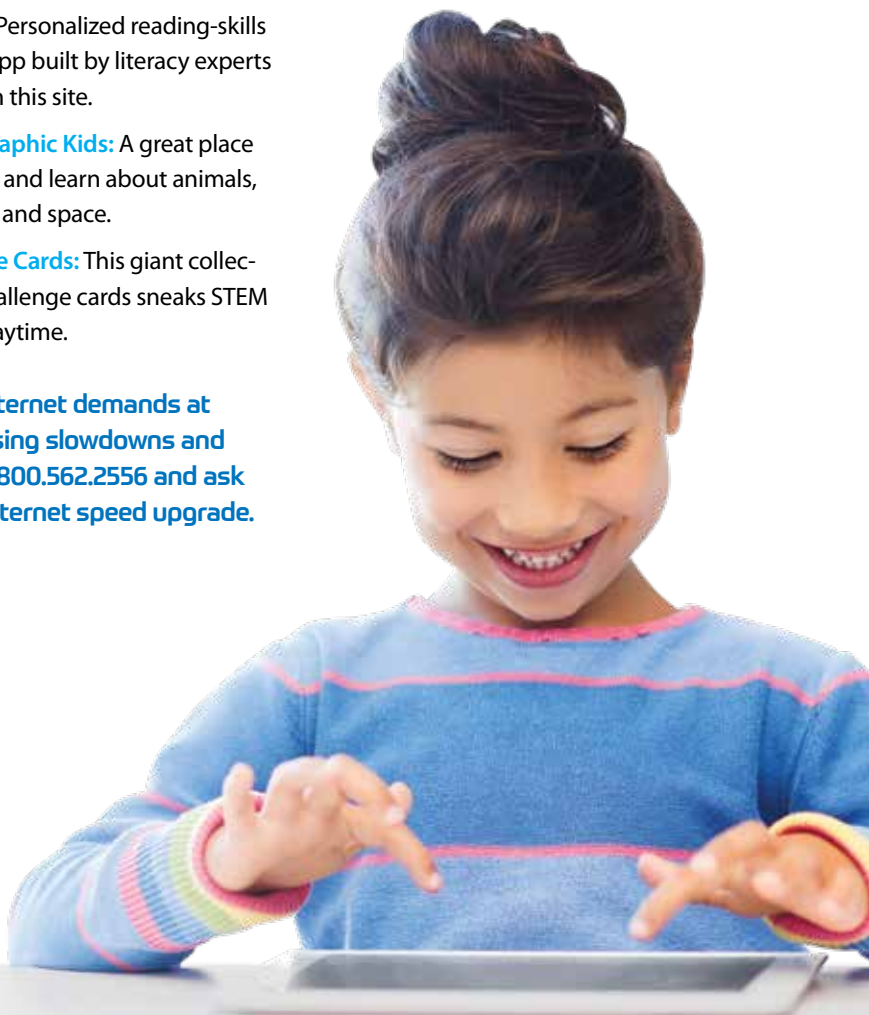
## Middle School

**NoRedInk:** This site is designed to build stronger readers and writers through online assessments, practice, and actionable data.

**Virtual Nerd:** Online help to learn middle school math functions by grade level.

**MathGameTime:** Access math games, videos, and worksheets for sixth and seventh graders.

**Amazing Space:** Your kids can explore comets, black holes, galaxies, and more through Hubble images.





# How to support small local businesses during this crisis

Measures to stay at home and practice social distancing in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have dramatically changed our shopping and dining habits. This presents major challenges to our local business community, particularly to small retail stores, restaurants, and service businesses.

While you may not be able to visit these establishments as you normally would due to temporary closures, you can continue to support them.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Buy gift cards for future use.** This is a great way to support a small business now, and many of these businesses are offering the option to purchase gift cards online.
- **Shop online from local businesses.** If your favorite local gift shop or bookstore offers online shopping, think about buying birthday and holiday gifts early. (Even if they haven't offered online shopping before, check again. They may be offering it now.)
- **Choose local grocery stores and pharmacies over big-box chains when possible.** If you can safely shop in person, please make your trips for essentials to small businesses and help them stay afloat.
- **Order takeout or delivery.** This helps local restaurants continue to operate while you maintain social distancing. If you're able, tip the delivery person generously to help these struggling workers.
- **Schedule a service for later in the year.** Coronavirus has created the ultimate cancel culture. If possible, schedule work with a housepainter, landscaper, or other contractor for several months down the road. Knowing that work is coming their way can help alleviate some of their anxiety.
- **Don't forget about nonprofits.** You can double your community assistance by buying a gift card from a local shop and donating it to a nonprofit. For example, you could buy a gift card from a local pet supply store and donate it to an animal shelter. Now is also a great time to sign up for that membership in your local nonprofit arts association or theater series.

**Small businesses need our support now more than ever to survive this crisis. Please do what you can to help.**

## How to Look Your Best While Video Chatting

Video chatting with applications like Facebook Messenger, FaceTime, Skype, or WhatsApp is a great way to enjoy face-to-face conversations with friends and family. Here's how to enhance the experience:

1. **Pick the best location.** For the most flattering appearance, position yourself so you're facing a sunny window or choose a well-lit spot. Make sure a lamp's light is coming toward your face.
2. **Position the camera at eye level.** One of the main reasons you may look bad during video chats is your device is placed low on a desk or lap, making your head tilt downward. Being shot from the chin upward is the most unforgiving angle possible. As a quick fix, prop up your device with books.
3. **Look straight into the camera.** Resist the temptation to stare at your image on screen. Instead, think of the camera as the other person and give it eye contact.

**Faster internet speeds can also enhance video chatting. For details, call PTCI at 800.562.2556.**





# Is working from home new to you?

More people are working from home right now than ever before. If this work arrangement is new to you, you may be struggling to maintain productivity and focus (not to mention balance work and parenting responsibilities).

Here are a few tips from seasoned pros who've worked from home for years:

- **Stick to your workday routine as much as possible.** Work roughly the same hours you did before and continue to get dressed in real clothes. Resist the temptation to work in your pajamas!
- **Set up a designated workspace.** Work from a desk or table in an area away from other family members so you have the quiet you need to stay on task. Also sit in a supportive chair to help prevent back pain.
- **Stay connected to coworkers.** Use applications such as Zoom or FaceTime to help maintain morale during this period of isolation.

If you need to make changes to your home's internet service to accommodate working from home, call us at 800.562.2556.



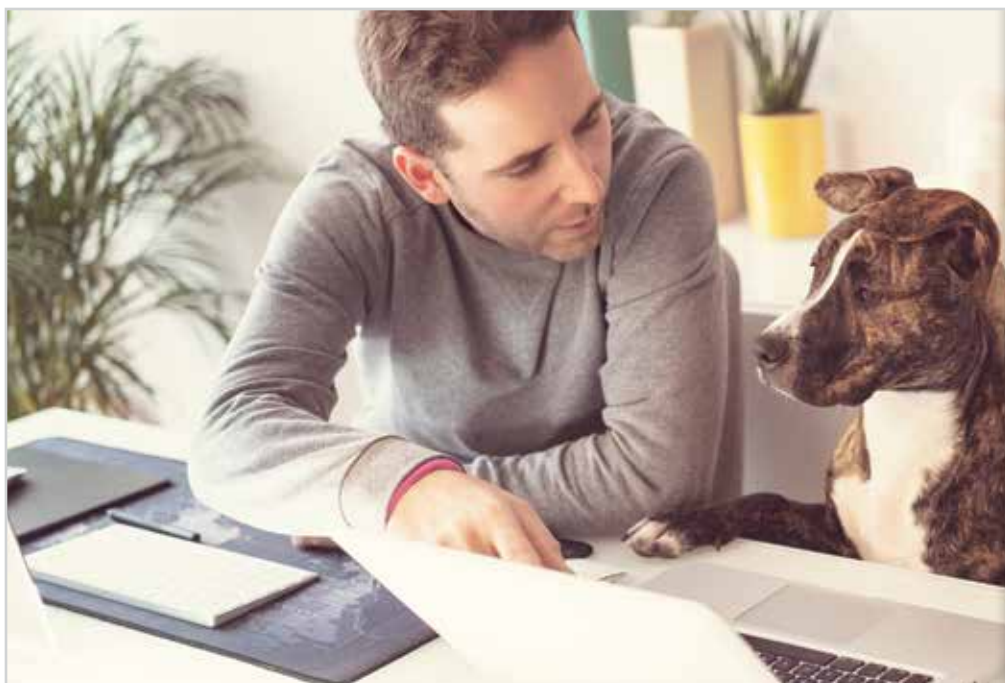
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## DO YOU WORK FROM HOME?

YOUR DOG ASSISTING  
YOU IS FINE.  
DOGGONE SLOW  
INTERNET IS NOT.

**Ask us about an internet upgrade.**

It'll help you get serious work done, even with a four-legged assistant.

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