



## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Re: CASDA's response to the Covid-19 Coronavirus

CASDA exists to support the safety and well-being of individuals and families hurt by abuse. However, during an emergency, such as a public health crisis, CASDA's responsibility to the community at large has the potential to change or limit the scope of our services. Currently, the coronavirus outbreak is creating this type of emergency. As stated on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: "More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community spread. It's likely that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur."

**Because we wish to respond proactively to the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, and to do our part in controlling the virus' spread, we are adjusting or suspending several aspects of our typical programs and practices.** While we have designated the end of April to review whether the following precautions are still necessary, **CASDA administration will also revisit these measures daily and assess the need for maintaining or modifying them** based on any new information or directives we receive from public health officials and our state coalitions, End Abuse Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA).

1. We are temporarily suspending in-person educational presentations to community groups, as well as hosting informational tables at community events. We hope to resume our Public Education Program May 1<sup>st</sup> but will make that decision based on conditions and public health department recommendations at that time.
2. To help reduce the number of public gatherings in our service area, we are cancelling CASDA-organized community events (such as the opening proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month) through April, and we will reevaluate conditions at that time.
3. We are temporarily suspending in-person participation in community meetings and task forces. When feasible, we will use remote methods to participate in discussions. We will reevaluate conditions at the end of April.
4. To limit non-essential visits to our facility, we are cancelling in-person meetings hosted by CASDA (planning committees, support groups, etc.) through April. We will reevaluate conditions at that time.
5. **We will not be accepting donations of any used items until further notice.** Donations of new, needed items (cleaning products, unexpired non-perishable food, etc.) will still be accepted; however, it is always a good idea to call CASDA, 715-392-3136, before delivering them.
6. CASDA advocates will suspend the majority of **off-site** client appointments through at least April.



7. Additional health and safety precautions will be taken for client meetings at CASDA (such as increasing the physical distance between individuals during face-to-face appointments).

In addition to these program adjustments, CASDA is also committed to following the CDC's general recommendations for homeless shelters, places of employment, and the community at large. For example, employees will be encouraged and expected to stay home when they are sick and to wash hands regularly, per CDC standards. Anyone in our building (staff, volunteer, client, visitor) showing symptoms of respiratory illness will be expected to wear a protective mask. Frequently contacted surfaces will be disinfected daily.

CASDA will ensure that, as we take these steps to slow the spread of Covid-19, we are keeping current on federal, state and local health department recommendations and adjusting measures or timeframes as needed. **We will also strive to balance any precautionary steps with the need to ensure continued access to our supportive services for victims and survivors, especially those who are members of marginalized and vulnerable populations.**

Below are links to just two of the many articles we reviewed as we considered whether and how to modify CASDA's services in response to this public health emergency:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>

While we understand that some of these precautions may seem like extreme measures, we have chosen to be as proactive as possible in anticipating that cases of Covid-19 will soon be confirmed in our county. Based on the research we have done, we believe that these steps will help protect CASDA clients, staff and volunteers, as well as any persons at increased risk of severe illness, and will help keep our healthcare system from being overwhelmed with a sudden spike in cases. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.