

Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued guidance to our 16 DPH-funded RCCs on **3/12/20** stating that:

- MDPH was suspending the requirement for 24/7 in-person RCC counselor accompaniment to hospital emergency rooms, effective immediately, and until further notice.
- RCCs were instructed to reach out immediately to all hospital EDs in their service area and to their regional SANE Coordinator to inform them of this change, and discuss protocols for continued remote contact with the RCC.
- 24/7 RCC Hotlines were all to remain fully active, though they could be answered off-site.
- 24/7 REMOTE response to sexual assault survivors was still required to be offered to all hospital emergency departments and police departments.
- Court/legal accompaniment and advocacy was to be provided remotely.
- All in-person outreach and educational sessions were to be suspended until further notice.
- Individual counseling appointments were to continue - and could be provided entirely by remote means: either by phone, chat or video platform
- RCCs could determine individually if group counseling sessions would continue to be offered (it took many RCCs a few weeks to set this up, and some opted not to continue their groups during the emergency)