WCSAP Letter to Member Programs
About Hospital Accompaniment
(Shared with permission)

Hospital Accompaniment:
Use your best judgement when determining if folks should provide
accompaniment services to individuals in hospitals and working with advocates to
determine risk. If folks have colds, history of respiratory illnesses, compromised
immune systems, or other health issues, they may not be the best candidate for
providing accompaniment to the hospital. It makes sense to take precautions.

Engage in recommended prevention:

• Cough or sneeze into your elbow.
• Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use
an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Add
hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to your hospital “go bag.” Clean your
cell phone often. Wipe down surfaces.
• Avoid touching your face when possible and wash your hands if you
do touch your face.
• It is okay to wear a mask as long as it does not increase touching
your face.
• If you are sick, stay home.

Planning Ahead:
Connect with your hospital partners about their current procedures for limiting
exposure to workers and patients not impacted by the novel coronavirus. At some
point, the hospital may also be working to triage non-emergency clients with
increased cases. Talk with them about contingency plans and a threshold where it
could impact exams to survivors.

Although CSAP contracts require hospital accompaniment be provided to people
who have been sexual assaulted, we recognize that your community may be
experiencing unique risk factors related to COVID19. If you or your hospital
partners are considering limiting the services / exams provided in your area, create a plan for pro-actively connecting with victims of sexual assault who receive services at hospitals or cannot and contact your grant manager at OCVA to discuss waiver-opportunities.

**Applicable Employment Leave:**
Employment Security has made [this helpful chart](https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus) about the benefits available to employees in a variety of emergency scenarios related to COVID-19.

**Stay Up-to-Date:**
For state and county specific information access the Washington State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) [https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus](https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus)