

WCSAP Letter to Member Programs About Hospital Accompaniment

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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](#) 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>