



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

Hello again.

This is an update to my Monday email regarding COVID-19. As you are hearing on the news, information about this virus is fluid, changing and moving quickly. On Wednesday Governor Dunleavy issued a Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration for COVID-19. With this declaration, a unified command structure has been initiated to make recommendations, decisions and respond to questions and concerns. A copy of the declaration is attached. I have also attached the most recent DHSS Health Alert issued today, including information on CDC's guidance on community mitigation strategies. One way to mitigate community exposure is to reduce opportunities for large gatherings of people by canceling/postponing trainings, meetings and conferences and implementing video and telecommunication procedures, where possible. These decisions will impact and change how we all do business in the near future.

In addition to passing along information, I am writing to let you know that CDVSA is here to assist you, our sub-grantees, in any way possible. If you have questions we will do our best to give you a response or find an answer. As critical questions are posed that impact all of our subs, we will be sure to send and/or post those responses to make sure everyone has the same information. We are here to be a sounding board and to brainstorm ways to develop plans for prevention and preparedness related to the virus. We are evaluating our current schedule of site visits and FDR timelines to create greater flexibility to reduce the burden on our programs; focusing on planning and preparation to deal with COVID-19 definitely takes priority. In addition to flexibility on monitoring schedules and timelines, we are looking at alternatives to in-person site visits as needed during this emergency. Over the next week we will be reviewing and making decisions about next steps and how to proceed on all issues related to this emergency declaration.

Please do not hesitate to contact your identified Program Coordinator with any questions, concerns or dialogue. The work you do is never easy; it is considerably more difficult during the current situation. And, more difficult because every questions does not have an answer at this time. We are all being asked to use our best judgement, common sense and logic to prepare and make decisions that serve the interests of our agencies, our program participants, clientele, and communities.

Thank you and do not hesitate to contact us if we can assist in any way!