

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Re: DAIS response to the Covid-19 Coronavirus

DAIS has proudly supported survivors of domestic violence and their families in Dane County without interruption for 43 years. However, during an emergency, such as a public health crisis, DAIS' responsibility to our community at large has the potential to change or limit the scope of our services. Currently, the coronavirus outbreak is creating this type of crisis. 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."

Beginning Tuesday, March 17th, the DAIS business offices will be closed to the public. Scheduled appointments should report to the 24/7 security entrance. DAIS will not be able to provide any walk-in services for the foreseeable future. Those needing services should contact our 24-hour Help Line at (608) 251-4445. Please note that call volumes may be higher during this time. We appreciate your patience.

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 until further notice. **DAIS leadership staff will 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 at the local, state, and federal levels.

- 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 1st but will make that decision based on conditions and public health department recommendations at that time.
- We are also suspending all school-based and community-based prevention activities effective immediately, including our MENS (Men Encouraging Non-violent Strength) Clubs. We will follow the lead of our educational partners as to when it would be most appropriate to re-institute these initiatives.
- 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 in mid-April.
- To limit non-essential visits to our facility, we are cancelling in-person meetings hosted by DAIS until further notice.
- **We will not be accepting donations of any used items until further notice.** Donations of new, needed items as identified on our Wishlist (cleaning products, paper towels, hand soap and

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hand sanitizer, baby wipes, large trash bags, unexpired food, non-perishable food, etc.) will still be accepted. Deliveries of donations **must be arranged in advance** by calling (608) 338-0065 or emailing at inkind@abuseintervention.org

- **We are cancelling all support groups and children's programming until at least the week of April 6th.**
- **We will not be able to accommodate any walk-in appointments** until further notice.
- **All case management services will be provided over the phone.** Limited in-person appointments may be offered based on the request. In person appointments are not guaranteed.
- **We are suspending our Legal Clinic at the Dane County Courthouse until further notice.**
- Legal Advocacy services will be primarily provided over the phone. Court accompaniments may be possible based on Legal Advocate availability. **If the courthouse closes, our legal advocacy services will revert to exclusively phone-based services.**
- Additional health and safety precautions will be taken for the limited in-person client meetings with DAIS staff and volunteers that may be available (such as increasing the physical distance between individuals during face-to-face appointments).

In addition to these adjustments to DAIS programming, DAIS is fully committed to following the CDC's general recommendations for homeless shelters, places of employment, and the community at large. For example, employees will be expected to stay home when they are sick. Employees who arrive at work while ill will be sent home immediately. All employees are expected to wash hands regularly, and frequently contacted surfaces will be disinfected multiple times daily to promote a clean, healthy environment.

While DAIS will take every necessary measure (as recommended by the CDC and local public health agency to reduce the spread of infect, **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.**

While we greatly hoped to avoid any interruptions in our services, we have chosen to be as proactive as possible as we begin to understand the true scope of the situation in Dane County. Based on the research we have done, we believe that these steps will help protect DAIS clients, staff and volunteers, as well as any persons at increased risk of severe illness, and will help us return to full functionality as quickly as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.