

## The Safer at Home Executive Order – Key Provisions Impacting SA/DV Programs

On April 16, the Evers Administration extended the [Safer at Home Executive Order](#). This order requires WI residents to stay at home or their place of residence, with several notable exceptions. This document highlights several important sections of the order that most directly impact programs.

### Exempted from the Safer at Home Order:

#### Human Service Operations

For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any state, institutional, or community-based setting providing human services to the public.

**Human Service Operations** includes, but is not limited to: long-term care and assisted living facilities, as long as the facility follows all current DHS Recommendations for Prevention of COVID-19 in Long-Term Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities and all applicable U.S. Centers for Disease Control Recommendations; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, victims of domestic abuse, people with disabilities, people with substance use disorders, or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, or children; adult day care, adult day services, and supportive home care; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, vocational services, or rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, or other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

Human Services Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

***Based on a broad reading of this order, survivors may travel to receive services at SA/DV Programs and employees may travel to work at SASPs.***

**Essential Businesses and Operations** – The Safer at Home Executive Order allows certain Essential Businesses to continue operating. Included in the definition of Essential Businesses are:

**Organizations that provide charitable and social services.**

Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including prevocational group supportive employment, food banks and food pantries, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy

individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this public health emergency, and people with disabilities.

SA/DV programs fall under the category of Essential Businesses that were not required to cease operations when the order went into effect on March 25. Additionally, any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Businesses or Operations is deemed “**essential travel**” under the order and thus exempted from the travel restrictions. This would mean that travel to hospital accompaniment for SANE exams would still be allowed, subject to local hospital policy regarding who is allowed on-site.

Finally, even though SASPs fall under the Essential Businesses and Operations category, the Order does state: they shall meet Social Distancing Requirements between all individuals on the premises to the extent possible. Essential Businesses and Operations shall, to the greatest extent possible, use technology to avoid meeting in person, including virtual meetings, teleconference, and remote work (i.e., work from home).

### **Social Distancing Requirements**

The Executive Order defines social distancing requirements as follows: maintaining social distancing of six (6) feet between people; washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands); regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and following all other public health recommendations issued by DHS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

All Essential Businesses and Operations shall comply with [DHS Guidelines for Businesses and Employers](#).

There is also [additional guidance for Essential Businesses and Operations](#) created by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) that provides best practices for Essential Businesses. This document contains tangible action steps programs can take in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note, SA/DV programs do not need to submit an Essential Business Declaration to WEDC because they fall under the Essential Business definition in the Safer at Home order.

The Safer at Home Order is in effect until **May 26 at 8:00 a.m.**, or until a superseding order is issued.