

March 16, 2020

Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) Statement Regarding COVID-19

First, we would like to extend our warmest and most positive thoughts to everyone. During these unprecedented times please know that we are thinking of survivors, our member agencies who serve them and our colleagues and partners.

We plan to do our part in maintaining the health of the community, and hopefully this will help with the burden our health system is bearing right now and will continue to bear over the coming months.

The AASAS team is working remotely. Everyone is connected to email, however there may be a bit of a delayed response to phone calls as we call in to retrieve messages.

AASAS has cancelled all upcoming in-person First Responder Training sessions for March and April. We are contacting all participants to let them know their options of a full refund or transferring their payment to a future workshop. Anyone who has registered for March/April First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse training, and has further questions, can visit our website at <https://aasas.ca/initiatives/first-responders-training/> for more information.

Our member agencies, who provide such important services to individuals who have experienced sexual violence, have been implementing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and these are available through their individual websites and social media listed on our website <https://aasas.ca/get-help/> Sexual Assault Services are working very hard to maintain support services while keeping their staff, clients and communities as safe as possible.

Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence is still available seven days a week from 9am until 9pm. Text or talk 1-866-403-8000, chat <https://aasas.ca>.

As an organization, we know this is a very challenging time emotionally and we will be staying in touch with our staff and member agencies. We will get through this by working together, and supporting each other and our community.

