



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and NASW-NYC Events

Dear NASW-NYC Family,

As we are sure many of you are, our team has been closely following the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and other authorities such as the [NYS Department of Health](#) regarding the COVID-19 Virus. We are monitoring the information as it comes in and as an association of healthcare and advocacy-based professionals, NASW-NYC shares your concern.

Today, Governor Cuomo announced that NYS will provide free, alcohol-based hand sanitizers to all New Yorkers to address the concerns of price gouging and ensure that everyone has access.

With so many events on our horizon, we wanted to share what we are currently doing with our social and networking events, including our Leadership Awards Gala on March 19, 2020.

- **NASW-NYC Gala 03/19/20:** Currently, the [gala](#) will move forward as scheduled. In addition to following guidance from the CDC and encouraging that everyone follow the general safety precautions such as frequent hand washing and remaining home if feeling ill, we are in communication with our venue to monitor the situation carefully and will abide by all recommendations they provide us. We have also been in communication with our event planner and venue regarding adding more cleaning to their already rigorous routines and have plans in place. If anything changes, event participants will be notified via email.

- **In-Person networking/learning events:** Currently, all our workshops are moving forward as scheduled. Most of our workshops are held onsite at our NASW-NYC offices and we too, have additional cleaning plans in place, as well as have sanitizers for use. If anything changes, event participants will be notified via email.

Like many of you, we have heard that several large events were cancelled nationally. It is important to recognize that the size and scope of these events is much different than our gala in NYC. These events have been scheduled to host thousands, some upwards of 50,000 people from across the world, shutting down entire cities for multiple weeks. While these are important events to monitor, at this time, their actions are not indicative of what our response should be.

Our goal is to host a successful and safe gala and other events. We will continue to work collaboratively with our local authorities and venues to monitor the situation and adjust if deemed appropriate. Health and safety of our community is paramount, and we encourage all our friends to listen to the advice of health experts. You can read about the CDC's guidance for precautions to take for yourself, your organizations, and to share with the clients you serve [here](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Claire Green-Forde, LCSW
Executive Director, NASW-NYC