

Workshop 5/13/2020 – Reopening Meeting Spaces for AA Meetings

Manhattan District 618

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12 Traditions and 24 Principles

aa.org – updates on COVID-19 – letter from GSO

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_updatesoncoronavirus.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_updatesoncoronavirus.pdf)

Tradition 3: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

– inclusivity – some people are getting to more meetings than ever with accessibility of online meetings

Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

-groups not following government rules and recommendations gives AA as a whole a negative image.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

– Groups that have been continuing to meet during COVID-19 against government rules and regulations have received public citations. This violates Tradition 5 by giving a negative image of AA and having this as the image for a newcomers first introduction to AA.

Tradition 10: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

– Groups that have been continuing to meet during COVID-19 against government rules and regulations have received public citations. This violates Tradition 10 by drawing AA's name into public controversy.

Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

– Groups that have been continuing to meet during COVID-19 against government rules and regulations have received public citations. This violates Tradition 11 by newcomer giving a negative view to the newcomer.

-Contact Tracing

Safety Card – AA groups follow all government mandates

- How will we keep members, especially the more at health risks, safe at meetings? How will the group deal with a situation if COVID-19 is spread throughout the group?

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-211\\_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-211_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf)  
[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-209\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-209_en.pdf)

-By not following the government regulations and recommendations, you are DISRESPECTING AA as a whole.

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO OPENING A MEETINGS FACE TO FACE**

Group Conscious to be held prior to opening to discuss government regulations and recommendations with the 12 Traditions in determining safety of members.

CDC, State and Local regulations on group meetings needs to be researched and understood – Where are these resources located, how can they be communicated and how can they be implemented?

Limiting number of members allowed in meeting space based on government regulations. Who will leave? How will room for the newcomer be allotted? How will asking someone to leave be handled with LOVE and TOLERANCE.

Call in meetings (Zoom/Phone) during face to face meetings – issues of anonymity? Allows the group to follow government regulations while following the Traditions.

Are there legal liability issues for the group?

Should there be hospitality service? Safety measures for everyone? How will someone wear a mask and eat/drink safely? How will this be handled with LOVE and TOLERANCE?

Hand Sanitizer provided by group? If not, how will groups be conducted safely?

Disinfecting wipes provided by the group? Cleaning before and after meetings? New group service positions?

High touch surfaces (chairs, tables, doors, restroom, group materials, etc.) and violations of group conscious safety protocol – LOVE and TOLERANCE is our code as well as maintaining a safe environment for members.

Hugging? Holding hands during prayer? Maintaining at least a 6 foot perimeter (bubble) around all members from one another? How will this be enforced and regulated with LOVE and TOLERANCE?

Sharing readings/literature between members? Ensuring sanitation and safety?

Space limitations and concerns while following Traditions? AA follows regulations from the government. How is it determined who is asked to leave? Who is ensuring that there is an adequate square footage for social distancing?

Will the group require masks to attend meetings? Will your group supply masks to those without? How will group members deal with those refusing to wear a mask with LOVE and TOLERANCE?

Will the group require members to take their temperature prior to attending a meeting? How will this be enforced and regulated? How will it be handled if someone arrives and did not take their temperature with LOVE and TOLERANCE?

Is AA Essential? – For some states, plans can be sent in to the government to submit a plan to get permission to open meetings properly – depends on states if AA is essential – NY AA is NOT essential.

Contact Tracing with meetings can violate anonymity – group conscious decision – individual choice with respect to other members – think of others before yourself

-Make an announcement at beginning of meetings to inform members of this possibility and allow everyone to make an individual decision based on the group conscious decision

Does our meeting have the option to break up into other rooms if available when capacity is reached for the normal meeting room.

Will the group need to create new Service Commitments for group members?

Tradition 7? Safely passing basket? Virtual basket?

\*\*\*Contributions are way down due to members not working and limited face to face meetings.  
Members can make monthly contributions for GSO (aa.org) at as low as 5.00 a month.

Is you group following government regulations while still following The 12 Traditions (4, 5, 10 & 11)?

If and when your group does have a plan around these issues to safely reopen face to face meetings, please email that plan to [Groupservices@aa.org](mailto:Groupservices@aa.org) to help other groups.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Delegate information on Area Pages

<https://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate>

<https://www.wpaarea60.org/alerts/>

[https://www.wpaarea60.org/docs/alerts/2020-04-15\\_Delegates\\_Dispatch.pdf](https://www.wpaarea60.org/docs/alerts/2020-04-15_Delegates_Dispatch.pdf)

[https://www.wpaarea60.org/docs/alerts/2020-05-06\\_Delegates\\_Dispatch.pdf](https://www.wpaarea60.org/docs/alerts/2020-05-06_Delegates_Dispatch.pdf)

12 Step Work – accessibility workshops and meetings – call – reach out to those sick and suffering – help prevent isolating

\*\*\*The country ran out of body bags about a month ago\*\*\*