

THINGS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO REOPENING MEETINGS

This Greater New York Regional communication is designed to help groups to discuss safety and atmosphere of recovery concerns related to COVID-19 and the resumption of face-to-face meetings. By sharing this information with you we hope to assist groups in a constructive manner as you exercise your autonomy to consider these issues while keeping the focus on our common welfare and our primary purpose. Regardless of group decisions, which are made on a group by group basis in keeping with our Traditions, each member is responsible for their own health decisions and participation.

These are some things groups may want to consider:

- Has your home group scheduled a group conscience or business meeting to discuss what will be needed to resume face-to-face meetings?
- Does your group plan to discuss the state and local health guidelines?
- Has the group spoken to the facility and received **express permission** to resume face-to-face meetings? Will the facility have any specific requirements that must be adopted immediately upon having in-person meeting?
- Will your group's regular meeting space limit capacity regarding physical distancing? If room capacity is diminished, how will the group address the needs of those addicts not able to enter without controversy? Will the group suggest not congregating outside the meeting place before or after the meeting?
- Does the group have a socially distant seating plan developed?
- Will your home group consider conducting itself as a hybrid meeting, in-person and virtual, until such time that the majority of members feel safe entering places of public assembly? If hybrid meetings are conducted will this raise issues of anonymity?
- Will the group have hospitality? If so, what safety measures could your group adopt? Is it possible?
- Will your group provide hand sanitizer? Will the group clean all tables and chairs before members arrive; and after members leave? Make sure that restrooms (if open) have soap for washing hands? If masks are required, will your group supply a mask for those without one?
- How will the group enforce guidelines adopted by the group conscience of the group? Will there be a need to create new group level service commitments directly related to group conscience safety measures? If, for example, masks are required will anyone that refuses to wear one be asked to leave?

- How will the group practice the 7th Tradition? Hybrid 7th Tradition: electronic and basket? If a basket is used how can it be passed safely: e.g., a stationary basket or one member carrying the basket around the room.
- Anything that involves items being physically passed from one member to another may be something that the group needs to address via group conscience: Meeting Readings, Informational Pamphlets, Books, Key-tags, Meeting Schedules et cetera.
- Will your group be considering: using electronic literature to avoid passing hard copies, creating electronic versions of phone lists or exchange phone numbers via text, referring attendees to websites or apps for meeting schedules instead of using paper lists, circling up without touching, and maintain physical distance?
- Has the group carefully considered how reopening the meeting will affect our public image?
- Will your group use trusted servants as greeters that would briefly explain group adopted safety best practices as members enter?
- Will the group revise their opening format to reflect newly adopted group policies? Example: *We say meeting makers make it. However, - If you feel sick, or have had a fever in the past 14 days, please refrain from attending the meeting in person.*
- Are the group trusted servants knowledgeable about internet resources for literature and virtual directories such as newyorkna.org or virtual-na.org?
- Lastly, how has your group considered following government regulations in light of practicing the Traditions — specifically 4,5,10 and 11?