

## AA Group Inventory for the COVID-19 Era

Many groups periodically hold a “group inventory meeting” to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose to help alcoholics recover through A.A.’s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery.

In the COVID-19 era, many groups quickly transitioned to virtual (online) meetings, and may now wish to step back and evaluate how they’re doing. With the rapidly changing landscape of our fellowship, groups may need an inventory to reflect our new circumstances.

Here we offer you a set of group inventory questions adapted to the COVID-19 era. (Based in part on questions in “The AA Group” pamphlet.)

Here are some suggested questions that your group could ask itself:

1. What is the basic purpose of our group?
2. How well is our group carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic?
3. How well is our group serving members who were present before the pandemic? Who has been “left behind”?
4. Have we reached out to help members who are not “tech-savvy” get connected? Is a phone and email contact list available to members?
5. Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with accessibility issues? What kind of alcoholics are we not seeing at our meeting?
6. Are we getting many visitors from outside our area? How are we welcoming them to our group?
7. Do we effectively emphasize and facilitate sponsorship in the virtual environment? How can we do it better?
8. Since going virtual, how have our group chores/responsibilities changed? Have we let any important functions go unfulfilled?
9. Do we need to modify our group’s format to better suit meeting virtually? Why or why not?
10. How are we conducting our virtual elections for service positions? Despite being virtual, are we still practicing the spirit of rotation?
11. What measures are we taking to ensure safety in our meetings, both against trolls/bombers and with respect to existing members?
12. Are we recording our meeting? Why or why not? If so, what precautions are we taking to ensure anonymity?
13. Is our group continuing to do its fair share toward participating in our Three Legacies – Recovery, Unity, and Service?
14. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition? Are we meeting our expenses and maintaining a prudent reserve? Are we providing both digital and non-digital ways to contribute? Why or why not?

If your group is considering reopening in-person meetings, here are some additional questions you may wish to ask. But first, a few words to consider:

Fortunately, newcomers have been getting sober in Zoom meetings. What this pandemic has taught us is that there are many ways to connect—not just locally, but internationally—and there are lots of ways to carry the message. While we all miss meeting safely in person, we have more tools available to us to stay sober. We can attend meetings anywhere in the world; we can invite speakers from afar to chair our meetings; we can attend workshops, round-ups, and other events from the comfort of our homes. Phone and online meetings do not replace the need for in-person meetings, but they've added to all the ways that we can carry the message of hope and recovery to still suffering alcoholics and old-timers, alike. So, our decisions to reopen should be made carefully and deliberately. A higher power guides us through this process if we ask for help.

1. Do we have members who would be comfortable with resuming in-person meetings right now?
2. Do we have members who are not going to want to return to in-person meetings until there is a vaccine?
3. Are there members who will never be able to attend in-person meetings?
4. How do our members want to decide whether to resume in-person meetings again? Majority vote?
5. What kind of alcoholics would we not see at in-person meetings? Will people we are serving now be left out of our meetings? Is that important?
6. Do we want to continue to serve the people who cannot attend in-person meetings? Which path do we want to take:
  - Have hybrid in-person/virtual meetings, or
  - Have separate virtual and in-person meetings, or
  - Have only in-person meetings, and direct people who cannot attend them to other fellowships?
7. If we do not resume some form of in-person meetings as soon as they are allowed, are we concerned that we will lose access to our previous meeting facility? Will our group be able to afford rent with the lower attendance implied by social distancing requirements? Are there other options for meeting places?
8. At in-person meetings, are we willing to adhere to public health regulations for social distancing, maximum meeting capacity, wearing masks, and providing contact information for contact tracing, in order to protect our members' health and uphold the law? If yes, how will we handle it if, for example, too many people arrive for a meeting, or if someone refuses to wear a mask or provide contact information?
9. Do we anticipate having sufficient 7th Tradition contributions to cover the additional expenses for cleaning/sanitizing supplies and personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, extra masks) for in-person meetings?

10. If we want to have hybrid in-person/virtual meetings, do we anticipate having sufficient 7th Tradition contributions to cover possible acquisition of equipment such as a microphone, camera, loudspeaker, and laptop/monitor, as well as possible monthly internet/wifi expenses? Do we have adequate and secure storage for hybrid meeting equipment?