

Overview

Many AA groups are eagerly awaiting the time when they can meet in person again. There will be many challenges to consider as part of this process. We want to help connect you with information to help you reopen meetings in a safe and spiritual way.

PLEASE STOP AND READ

A.A. meetings qualify as “gatherings”, as defined by the State of California and Santa Clara County:

- Indoor gatherings are currently prohibited.
- Outdoor gatherings are also prohibited, except for the following:
 1. Faith-based services and cultural ceremonies, like weddings and funerals
 2. Protests

Central Office will only list in-person meetings on the aasanjose.org website when public health restrictions permit them. At this time, we are not listing any in-person meetings. Check this page again later for updates.

For your information, this is the relevant excerpt from the Santa Clara County Public Health Order “FAQ's”:

(<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders-faq.aspx#menu>)

Indoor Gatherings: The State and local Health Officer Orders prohibit indoor gatherings of any kind in Santa Clara County. **This means that you may not gather with anyone who is not a member of your own household in any indoor setting.**

Outdoor Gatherings: While the local Health Officer Order allows outdoor gatherings, the State prohibits all outdoor gatherings except for (1) faith-based services and cultural ceremonies, like weddings and funerals, and (2) protests. **This means that you may not gather outdoors with anyone who is not a member of your own household for any reason other than a religious or cultural ceremony or a protest.**

(Note that where there is a difference between the county and the state public health orders, the more restrictive order must be followed.)

NOTE: Regardless of whether any in-person gatherings are currently permitted by law, the health guidance from Santa Clara County continues to “strongly discourage” people from gathering together. County residents are encouraged to stay home as much as possible to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Our decisions to reopen should be made carefully and deliberately. If your group is comfortable with virtual meetings in the short term, you are urged to continue them. People at higher risk of severe illness or death from Covid-19 are strongly urged to not attend any in-person meetings.

It is recommended to have a group conscience meeting to take stock of the current situation, and then to possibly decide when and how to reopen. To evaluate how your group is doing right now, and to consider some preliminary topics to discuss before you embark on reopening, we offer you:

[An AA Group Inventory for the COVID-19 Era](#)

Current state and county public health orders, and other useful information, are available under:

[Public Health Resources](#)

When your group begins to plan for future reopening, a whole new set of questions arise. In addition to suggestions for groups to consider, there are also ‘musts’ that groups need to abide by, to stay within the regulations and mandates of our state and county. In addition, the facilities where meetings are held will have their own rules and guidelines. While there are no ‘musts’ in the A.A. program, there are legal musts in the larger community. Fortunately, our program of recovery has taught us how to be responsible citizens, both inside and outside the rooms of A.A.

We have compiled information from a variety of sources, including other Intergroups and Central Offices, that discusses many practical issues around reopening in:

[Considerations for Future Meetings](#)

Technology has been a nimble and amazing tool for AA, providing a way for meetings to continue virtually even though we can’t physically be together. Many groups have found that the Zoom platform (and other platforms) allow them to serve AA members who could not easily attend in-person meetings before. There are also many members who will not feel safe to attend in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. Therefore, we are currently researching some different methods for setting up “hybrid” online/in-person meetings. Stay tuned for more information at a not-too-distant future date under:

[Hybrid Online/In-Person Meetings](#)