

## 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. With these challenges in mind, the Santa Clara County Intergroup formed the “Virtual Solutions Committee”, whose purpose is to provide resources (here, on [www.aasanjose.org](http://www.aasanjose.org)) to help autonomous A.A. groups make autonomous group decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The resources provided here relate to in-person meetings, online meetings, online/in-person (hybrid) meetings, and COVID-19 public health resources. The committee has gathered relevant research and is sharing its findings here. Please contact the committee at [aasjvsc@gmail.com](mailto:aasjvsc@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns regarding this information.

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### PLEASE STOP AND READ

A.A. meetings qualify as “gatherings”, as defined by the State of California and Santa Clara County. The most up-to-date information on guidance for “gatherings” can be found in the following documents (check this page again later for updates):

- [California Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)
- [Santa Clara County Public Health Order Frequently Asked Questions - Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [State of California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Prevention of Covid-19 Transmission for Gatherings, Updated November 13, 2020](#)
- [Fact Sheet: State of California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Prevention of Covid-19 Transmission for Gatherings](#)

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

The Central Office of Santa Clara County Intergroup (“Central Office”) has decided that out of a desire to protect the health of A.A. members--and to protect the health, positive reputation, and goodwill toward A.A. in the community at large--it **will not list** any in-person meetings on the [aasanjose.org](http://aasanjose.org) website or the Meeting Guide app at this time. We will revisit this decision once the state and county public health guidance on “gatherings” permits us to do so.

Therefore, the information we present on the pages of this “Future In-Person Meetings” menu is simply to make our membership aware of the research we have done on the many requirements and restrictions associated with holding in-person meetings, and we invite A.A. groups to start thinking and discussing how they will re-open in-person meetings at a future date.

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 Reopening](#)

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](#)