

Overview

Many AA groups are eager to meet in person again. There are 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) 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 with any questions or concerns regarding this information.

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](#)
- [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)
- [Blueprint Activities and Business Tiers Chart](#)
- [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.)

Therefore, the information we present on the pages of this “Planning 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 discussing how they will re-open in-person meetings.

NOTE: Regardless of whether in-person gatherings are currently permitted by law, the health guidance from Santa Clara County states that “Despite recent progress, Santa Clara County continues to experience significant rates of COVID-19 transmission, and the danger COVID-19 poses to our community remains substantial.” County residents are still 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 decide when and how to reopen. To evaluate how your group is doing right now, and to consider some preliminary topics to discuss before 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 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 In-Person Meetings.](#)

Technology has been a nimble and amazing tool for AA, providing a way for meetings to continue virtually even when we couldn’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 have compiled information on the equipment needs and some other practical considerations for “hybrid” online/in-person meetings in: [Hybrid Online/In-Person Meetings.](#)

When your meeting is ready to go, please use the [New/Updated Meeting Form](#) to re-list your meeting (or list a brand-new meeting). All types of meetings will be listed: in-person (indoor or outdoor), online only, and hybrid. This form asks for more information from your group than previous versions of the New Meeting Form. The form has been changed in order to create

much more accurate and helpful meeting listings--for all three places that meetings are listed: in printed meeting guides, on the aasanjose.org website, and in the Meeting Guide "app"--and to help keep your group informed about news and upcoming events in the Santa Clara County AA fellowship as a whole.

NOTE: At this time, all meeting details must be entered in the form-even if the only change to a meeting is that it has reopened. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact aasjvsc@gmail.com, and include "New meeting form" in the subject line so that your questions can be answered as quickly as possible.