

Objective of Guideline

This document aims to provide guidance to assist groups:

- protect the interest and health of members and visitors at AA meetings;
- manage members who arrive at meetings sick and those who do not comply with Group Conscience decisions made to prevent COVID-19 infections; and
- ensure that meetings comply with government requirements

This guideline will apply until the Covid19 Virus Disaster ceases and only if announced by Government that this is indeed the case.

Return to “Face-to-face” (FTF) Meetings

Once regulations allow face-to-face meetings to resume, certain protocols need to be applied:

- All members and visitors to A.A. meetings, or the like, will be subject to a temperature test outside the meeting venue before entry is granted.
- Any person with a 38°C or higher temperature will not be allowed to join the meeting – we recommend that he/she seeks medical advice. (notice to be put up at entrance to meeting. Notice to also include that members who do not wish to conform to the group conscience guidelines will be asked to please leave the meeting).
- Masks and gloves (optional) must be provided by the members themselves and will not be available at the A.A. venues.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Hand sanitiser must be provided at each venue.
- Members leaving the meeting and returning, will have to re-sanitise before entering the meeting venue. They should inform the meeting host so that there is control of movement and knowledge of who is where.
- Venues providing tea/coffee/snacks need to ensure that the kitchen facilities are sanitized prior to and after every meeting.
- No sharing of food / cups / utensils.
- During tea/coffee/snack/smoke breaks, members must practice social distancing by staying at least 1.5 meters apart.
- Seating arrangements inside / outside venues to be consistent with government requirements.
- The meeting host is to keep a confidential record of attendees and their contact details. This is in the event of “contact tracing”. Members must be informed of this before they enter the rooms.

- A summary of the protocols is to be read out at each meeting as a reminder of these expectations.

Hygiene Protocols

In the interests of the general Fellowship, members who are sick, or suspect that they might be, should refrain from attending FTF meetings and should rather attend Zoom meetings until they are fully recovered.

If you feel unwell at a meeting, inform the meeting host. Appropriate measures could be followed thereafter. No handshaking and /or hugs are allowed.

Cover your coughs or sneezes with tissues / toilet paper / elbows
Throw away tissues / toilet paper in bins provided at the venue.

Wash hands with soap and water frequently – meeting venue must provide this facility

- especially after coughing or sneezing
- before, during and after tea/coffee/snacks preparation / consumption
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- if not visibly dirty, frequently clean them with sanitizer or soap and water

No spitting anywhere on the premises or within 3 meters of the meeting venue.

7th Tradition

We are self-supporting through contributions by our members and Covid has necessitated a change in how we collect funds. It is strongly suggested that electronic means be used for contributions. A box/bag at the top table for members to put money into is an option.

Reading of literature (Ch 5, traditions, twelve promises, acceptance etc)

Groups to print out the readings and laminate them – easier to sanitize by wiping or spraying. An alternative is for members to read from their personal smartphones or tablets.

Monitoring

A COVID marshal should be appointed at each group. Their purpose is to:

- Monitor member movement and whereabouts
- Control social distancing spacing in the meeting venue and during breaks.
- Control amount of people leaving the line for toilet breaks / tea
- Issue hand sanitizers
- Ensure venues have bins for disposal of tissues and other waste
- Ensure members are wearing shields or masks.

Covid19 Symptoms

- a fever
- a cough (in particular a dry, persistent cough)
- shortness of breath, although it is possible that symptoms can present like a normal cold or flu
- Chills

- Repeated shaking with chills
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell / taste
- Headaches
- Muscle pains

These symptoms can escalate to pneumonia, kidney failure, other serious medical conditions and ultimately death. Elderly persons (age 60+) and persons with existing medical conditions, especially respiratory conditions, are particularly at risk.

Other symptoms potentially linked to coronavirus, though not yet added to the CDC list, include digestive issues like nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea.

The CDC advice for severe symptoms hasn't changed, however — if employee experiences trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in chest, unexpected confusion, inability to wake up, or bluish lips/face, contact a medical professional immediately.

The symptoms appear between two and fourteen days after exposure and, in certain cases, asymptomatic transmission is possible (i.e. a person may be contagious before he/she shows any symptoms of the virus).

Contingency Plan and procedure if Covid19 symptom/s present at meeting venues

Member to be advised to seek medical advice; if necessary, contact a family member or health authorities.

Seating area, etc. to be sanitized immediately.

Stop the meeting, other members to use sanitizer before leaving the venue.

Recommend that all other attendees monitor for any symptoms and follow government guidelines if they become symptomatic.

Suspend all further meetings until the venue is re-sanitised thoroughly before re-commencing with meetings.

Advise the landlord of the incident.

Non-compliance *(Remember, it's the law of the land and we, as A.A. can't be found wanting in this regard)*

Members who are in breach of any of these guidelines should be approached in a humble and loving manner and be given a full explanation of the reasons for the guidelines. It should also be suggested to the member to not attend the meeting if he/she cannot respect the group conscience or else the group would be forced suspend the member from attending future meetings. The member should also be advised that the guidelines being implemented are in compliance with what has been laid down as the law of the land.