

## REOPENING GROUPS IN SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES

This document outlines some of the many decisions that may have to be made when reopening face to face AA meetings. Questions and information found in parts 1+2 are linked to resources that may help with group conscience decisions.

**Part 1**-Is the building that houses your meeting open? Is your AA group aware of new laws that will affect your meeting? Use these checklists to ask questions of the landlord and find links to learn about the laws. Health laws carry penalties if ignored by the AA group or individual. This document is intended to support groups not to govern.

### Checklist for the Meeting Held in a Church or Facility

This checklist is a summary of an LA Times article published 5/26/2020

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-05-26/california-battle-over-reopening-church-isnt-over-even-with->

Is the meeting facility open? Has the facility given permission to use the space?

Will the facility establish a maximum attendance to allow for social distancing?

Will the facility require group members be screened for fever?

Does the facility sanitize touch surfaces and high traffic areas or does the group?  
Does the facility provide sanitization supplies?

Will the facility post COVID-19 safety guidelines in the meeting room?

Will the facility allow meetings outdoors?

Does the facility have specific requirements for your group?

Link to: [State of California Guidance for Reopening Places of Worship](#)

### Information for meetings held in locations other than churches

Meetings held in restaurants and coffee shops- County of SD Guidelines are [here](#)

Meetings held in Community Centers- San Diego County and Imperial County Community Centers remain closed

Meetings held in public or private spaces- Gatherings are not permitted. San Diego County Guidelines [here](#) Imperial County Guidelines [here](#)

Full Imperial County Health Order [here](#) Imperial County Guide for Places of Worship [here](#)

**Part 2**- Once your group knows its responsibilities to the facility now the group must answer some questions about social distancing, room capacity, and sanitization. Use these charts for group conscience decisions on how the meeting is run.

#### Meeting Materials

How do we discourage sharing literature, reading materials, tokens, and the meeting format?  
Can we provide an electronic copy of a newcomer packet?

#### Court Cards

What alternative to signing the paper can we offer

### **Sanitizing/Cleaning Supplies**

Will the meeting provide hand sanitizers?

Will the meeting provide the surface sanitizing materials required to clean all seats and surface areas?

### **Social Distancing**

How are hugging and handshakes prevented? Can we celebrate birthdays without singing?

How do we inform attendees of the sanitary and social distancing requirements, masks, etc.?

How do we deal with folks who refuse to comply with the social distancing regulations?

What is the maximum number of room attendance to comply with social distancing?

How will you accommodate overflow of the maximum number of attendees?

What is the plan to accommodate social distancing requirements in the overflow space?

What happens when a newcomer shows up and the room capacity has been reached?

Do we accommodate members who are high risk?

### **Observing our 7th Tradition**

Will there be an electronic mechanism to accept contributions?

Do we have information on where to mail checks for contributions to all service committees including Hospitals & Institutions and the American Sign Language Fund? (Some AA members may prefer to send their 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition directly to the service committees rather than using app based money transfers).

### **Refreshments**

Are coffee service and snacks "safe"?

Is meeting waste safely contained and carried out of the room?

### **Room only, Zoom only or Room & Zoom**

Does our meeting want to reopen by dropping the Zoom meeting and going back to the room meeting only?

Does our meeting want to become a hybrid of Zoom access in addition to reopening for in-person?

### **Contact Tracing**

**Contract Tracing is a long-standing, important tool used to fight a pandemic.** Contact tracing becomes necessary when someone with a confirmed case informs the County of San Diego s/he attended your meeting during the time s/he may have been contagious. The agency will work to notify all persons who may have been exposed to the virus by the patient. The identity of the patient will be kept confidential. The objective is to provide a confidential health notification of the possible exposure to all with whom the patient had contact so that they can seek testing and move to self-quarantine, if necessary.

The San Diego County Health Order 5/27/2020 does not require contact tracing or meeting attendance lists be kept however this information is provided in case your meeting's landlord requires it as a condition of reopening.

More on contact tracing can be found [here](#)