

# For AA Groups: Points to Consider on "Outside Issues" that Affect Reopening our Meetings

## *Using the 12 Traditions as Our Guide*

The following information is for *informational purposes only*.

### **Federal, State, and Local Mandates Ordinances, and Regulations**

While these may be considered "outside issues," each group will likely want to comply with federal, state, or local mandates, ordinances, and regulations since they affect our ability to legally meet. Sometimes the language in these mandates, ordinances, and regulations are hard to understand, so interpreting them may present additional challenges for groups. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Check with the meeting landlord to determine their interpretation of federal, state, or local mandates, ordinances, and regulations.
- Masks or face coverings may be required in certain circumstances (eg., when in public, when in gatherings, when unable to maintain XX feet apart, etc). See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-sectors-not-otherwise-addressed>
- Sizes of "gatherings" may be limited both indoors and outdoors: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-parks-open-space-and-outdoor-education-programs-phase-ii/download>
- Consider if it is appropriate to participate in Contact Tracing. <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-contact-tracing-resources-and-information>
  - If the group thinks it is not appropriate to participate in Contract Tracing, why not?
  - If the group thinks it is appropriate to participate in Contract Tracing, why?
  - If yes, how will the group handle confidentiality and anonymity? Who will manage this process? How will we communicate this to attendees during the meeting? Should we contact a local Department of Health for guidance? Note: You do not have to disclose AA - one could simply say "community organization"
  - If yes, and the group has maintained a list of attendees and their contact information, do we notify other attendees? How do we notify while maintaining anonymity and confidentiality? Note: notification can be as simple as "a person who attended the meeting on <date> has tested positive for <illness> and you may wish to contact your physician for additional guidance."
  - If yes, those contacted may want to self-isolate as recommended by state or federal guidance.
  - If yes, consider suspending face-to-face meetings for a period of time.

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