

SJIG Committee for Safe Re-Openings

Suggestions & Recommendations

New Jersey State Restrictions as of June 9, 2020

The South Jersey Intergroup (SJIG) has created an ad hoc Committee for Safe Re-Openings in order to help facilitate the safest transfer of meetings from online, in-person (indoor and/or outdoor), or a hybrid (combination online/in-person) meeting format. SJIG and the Committee for Safe Re-Openings are asking groups to communicate with the Meeting List Committee to provide up-to-date information about their meetings re-opening, and to what extent.

In addition, the Committee for Safe Re-Openings offers the following suggestions and resources for meetings and individuals to consider regarding the safe re-opening of AA meetings:

- Groups should stay up-to-date on State restrictions regarding indoor and outdoor public gatherings, as outlined in the Executive Orders entered by Governor Phil Murphy. Here's a direct link to same:
https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html
- Pursuant to [Executive Order 152](#) individuals gather shall be limited to 25% of the capacity of the room in which the gathering takes place, not to exceed 50 persons.
- Pursuant to [Executive Order 152](#) face coverings should continue to be worn at all times except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- Pursuant to [Executive Order 152](#) all attendees at gatherings are required to be six feet apart from other attendees at all times, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members or romantic partners, and excluding a limited number of individuals organizing and maintaining the gathering.
- Pursuant to [Executive Order 152](#) if the gathering is of 10 or fewer individuals face coverings should continue to be worn, but distance requirements can be relaxed.
- SJIG recommends that groups consult their facility contacts (i.e. landlord) at their meeting spaces prior to reopening in order to adhere to their specific facility's policies and procedures.

- SJIG recommends that groups provide and use cleaning supplies to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19.
- SJIG recommends that groups institute a “bring your own book” policy at meetings regarding literature to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19.
- SJIG recommends taking additional safety precautions regarding the serving of coffee or food at meetings.
- SJIG recommends that groups consider the practice of contact tracing, i.e. keeping track of meeting attendees and contact information, so that if someone attending has COVID-19 or contracts COVID-19 after the fact, all those present can be made aware of possible exposure.
- SJIG recommends that groups review the New York’s Area 48 ad hoc Committee Report regarding safe re-opening practices. Here’s a direct link to same:
<https://aahmbny.org/reopening-ad-hoc-committee-report/>
- SJIG reminds all AA members that their safety is their responsibility.

To update your meeting, please find your meeting on the SJIG website at <https://aasj.org/meetings> and click the Host Update Link located above the blue Join Zoom Meeting button. Groups can now update their meetings for indoor, outdoor, Zoom, or any combination. For indoor or outdoor meeting, if there are group specific instructions please include them in the notes section of the update form. Some meetings are having individual outdoor meetings from their current Zoom meetings. Please supply temporary address if your group is meeting at any location other than your normal physical meeting location space.

Finally, to protect A.A., groups should be mindful of the Traditions. Tradition 1 declares, *“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”* When making group decisions Tradition 4 states, *“Each group is autonomous.”* However, the second part of this tradition 4 is just as relevant: *“except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”* These traditions remind us that we must ensure that our group decisions do not negatively impact our fellow members or A.A. as a whole, and that we as individuals act in ways that ensure our common welfare. As we have to consider the health and well being of other A.A. members, we are also tasked with protecting the positive reputation and goodwill of A.A. in the community.