



## **COVID:19 considerations for getting back to face-to-face meetings**

Firstly, may the ASC offer thanks to all members for their continuing hard work that allows us to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. It is amazing to hear the stories of ESH, how newcomers are finding the online rooms, getting sponsors and doing the steps online, as well as the support we deliver to those already in CA.

Although we have adapted well to online meetings, we recognise the desire to return to face-to-face meetings and their value. As a fellowship we now need to begin to understand the necessary guidelines and requirements associated with returning to physical meetings. We suggest each group consider using questions outlined below in your group conscience. The success of this transition will be dependent upon this process and considering these questions in your group conscience, to find the right path for your members and groups with god's help.

We hope you find this document a useful tool to guide your group conscience discussions safely, and in line with Government guidance.

It may be that some groups decide that they are going to postpone any activity of any kind until they are able to provide a common solution that works for all their group members. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive.

Following the announcement by the Government on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, some information has begun to be published around gatherings indoors. This has come with many questions, these need answers and also much work to be done in preparation for change.

We would suggest that each group considers careful steps towards this, which will allow the safety of each group member. Each member will have their own personal wellbeing to take care of; we are reminded that our unity and consideration of others will ensure our common welfare.

We will of course be governed by the adherence to policies and rules from the meeting place owners/vendors.

Here are a number of points that can help structure the discussion in your group conscience, as suggested practice to consider getting back to physical meetings:-

- Discussion with venue over access, COVID secure guidelines and social distancing.
- Can your CA group still use the venue under these guidelines? When this will be allowed?
- What is the buildings policy regarding COVID secure guidelines, including track and trace?
- How will you deal with holding members names and addresses who attend the meeting?
- Where and how will this list be stored?

- How many individuals can the building now hold? How will changes to this be monitored and applied?
- How will your group manage number restrictions? What happens when limits are reached and another member arrives?
- How will your group ensure the appropriate social distance is maintained?
- What measures will you consider re; facemasks, hand washing and sanitisers, where appropriate?
- What measures will you consider to support and protect both members who show symptoms of Covid-19 from the group, and vice versa, should they attend?
- How will facemasks and hand gel be provided and administered?
- How will this being paid for?
- Will your group provide sanitizing gel or wipes for those arriving?
- What support will you give to members who are not comfortable wearing masks?
- How will your group sanitize contact surfaces before and after each meeting?
- Will your group require members to have temperature checks, for instance, at home before the meeting, or even at the meeting?
- What if someone in your group needs to be tested for COVID 19? Will you keep a record of each attendee at each meeting so they may be informed while results are awaited? Who will hold this list? At what point may this list be destroyed?
- What will be your group's policy if an attendee is openly sick (e.g., coughing or feverish)?
- Physical contact points ie; tradition 7, literature, banners, chips and coins plus tea and coffee. Consideration may need to be given to how these are managed?
- Will your group eliminate the distribution of coffee and biscuits?
- If passing a physical basket is impossible, how will your group collect Seventh-Tradition contributions?
- Has an electronic account been set up? Some groups are using contactless card readers.
- How will physical materials (Steps and Traditions and banners, literature, meeting and phone lists, etc.) be handled?
- What about the set-up and breakdown of a meeting?
- Can physical meeting materials be replaced with virtual ones?

We would see this list as a beginning and not exhaustive, we are sure there will be many other matters to discuss and explore. We suggest you explore running your online meeting alongside face-to-face meetings to begin with, so everyone can be involved.

Additionally CAUK is currently checking our insurance, particularly public liability to ensure that are members are safe. We will update you once we have a further update.

The ASC is committed to bring you updates as the Government publishes information. Although our success will be determined by the collective decisions that you make in your group conscience. We recognise there is some distance to cover before fully returning to face-to-face meetings, but with hope faith and courage we can achieve this.

## **Tradition 6**

**In the spirit of Tradition Six, C.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution**