



NEVADA COUNTY  
Public Health

## UPDATED GUIDANCE ON TREATMENT GROUPS

INCLUDING ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

REVISED JUNE 16, 2020

Per the California Department of Public Health, 12-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, and other treatment groups are considered essential services under healthcare. These meetings should be held remotely whenever possible, but when they cannot reasonably be held remotely, they may be held in-person with the proper health and safety protocols. These meetings should follow the [state guidance on limited services](#) where possible.

- Limit meetings to 10 or fewer participants where feasible. Groups may hold meetings with more than 10 participants, as long as appropriate procedures, such as wearing face coverings, are in place and the space allows for a minimum of six feet between the people who attend. However, it is important to remember that the risk of COVID-19 exposure rises with the number of people from different households who interact with each other and with the length of time that interaction lasts. For this reason, we continue to recommend that groups are kept to 10 or fewer, where feasible. [updated 6/16]
- Maintain a list and contact number of participants at each group so that contact tracing can occur if a participant tests positive for COVID-19
- Individuals at high risk for complications of COVID-19 infection, who are feeling sick or have been exposed to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 should self-quarantine and not attend group meetings of any size
- Participants (including staff or volunteers) should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to group attendance
- Make arrangements such that participants are outside of close contact and can maintain a distance of 6 feet from other participants in a well-ventilated space for the duration of the meeting
- Educate and practice respiratory hygiene (cover coughs, wash hands, dispose of tissues)
- Do not serve refreshments
- Use of face coverings by volunteers and participants

- Infection control practices including hand hygiene and environmental sanitation should be implemented

### **Reopening Resources**

County staff is available to help all businesses through the 4 stages of reopening. Nevada County is currently under the statewide Stay-at-Home Order, but Orders can change quickly, and we want our businesses to be prepared to open the moment it is safe to do so. Businesses, non-profits and houses of worship requiring more guidance should contact us at [COVID19Recovery@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:COVID19Recovery@co.nevada.ca.us) and we will be in touch to connect you with the appropriate department or resources. General coronavirus questions can be directed to Connecting Point at 1-833-DIAL211 or [211@connectingpoint.org](mailto:211@connectingpoint.org).

Local guidance documents are available at [www.mynevadacounty.com/coronavirus/businesses](http://www.mynevadacounty.com/coronavirus/businesses). State industry guidance documents are available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>.