

Dear ENYRNA groups, areas and recovering members,

We hope this letter finds you clean and in good health. The Covid – 19 pandemic presented our fellowship with a challenge. Closing our meetings due to NY State and local directives was a difficult choice. As usual, our unity, resilience and ingenuity enabled our groups and areas to continue functioning as best as they can in this time of uncertainty and caution.

It is expected that on or about June 24, 2020 The Long Island region of NY State will reopen in Phase 3 of the state reopening plan. It is expected that the NY City region will enter Phase two and Phase 3 soon after. What this means for our groups, area and region is that, limited congregation of 25 or less individuals in Phase 3 and 10 or less while in Phase 2, will be permitted without potential consequences by state and local authorities.

However, this does not mean that WE, as responsible members of society and Narcotics Anonymous are free to do “whatever we want” regarding the facilities that allow us to, so generously, hold our meetings. There are suggested guidelines provided by NA World Services that should be reviewed by each group and ALL of its members to ensure understanding and unity in applying them to our groups and their meetings. It is also expected that each group and its members will adhere to the current guidelines provided by state and local authorities. Let us remember that “self-will, arrogance, self-righteousness and selfishness” are not spiritual principles of our fellowship and “discipline, responsibility, prudence, open mindedness, willingness, trust, compassion and love” are our spiritual principles.

Because we are receiving inquiries about insurance coverage, we will explain where we stand now. Our insurance coverage for damage to a facility is in force at present. HOWEVER, after discussion with our insurance agent, nothing is the same. The truth is: no one knows what our or any insurance company will do if a claim is submitted. This is not directed at the areas and groups of ENYRNA but, to all across the world. Insurance is in a state of uncertainty.

What can we do to protect our members and the facilities we are gifted to use? The first thing to do is know and understand the state and local guidelines for reopening and how they affect your meeting place. The second thing is to inquire with the facility to know what their guidelines are for holding meetings. Please bear in mind the facilities guidelines do not replace or modify state and local guidelines. “The church or facility said...” or “they don’t care” are not acceptable reasons for bypassing the state and local guidelines. The next is to review the guidelines provided by NA World Services for reopening meetings. The one thing all of us as NA members and groups need to do is act responsibly and respect the facilities we use to ensure that there is no reason to have an incident that requires an inquiry or claim made to the insurance company. Again, we have no idea how a claim will be handled so the best way to deal with the situation is not to have any incident that would need to be addressed.

By not following state and local guidelines you also risk the loss of your meeting place and other meetings that are there if the facility feels you are not respecting their space. If you go over capacity, don’t wear masks, or properly social distance, whether you believe these work or not,

they can simply stop allowing NA meetings. Each member or group's action can and will affect more than you may think. Please do everything you can to insure the Narcotics Anonymous name stays in good standing.

We want to be perfectly clear to all, if a group and any of its member are in violation of the State and local guidelines for reopening meetings, the consequence may be denial of a claim or worse, a termination of the insurance that protects our members and provides our sponsoring facilities the peace of mind to invite us to use their facilities. Simply put, if we lose our insurance, we will lose many of our meeting facilities. This is not to be taken lightly.

If you need further clarification or understanding of the current state of our insurance, please reach out to the regional or area insurance liaison. You can also see the Regional website for updates, links to information and suggestions for ways to open meetings safely. nanewyork.org

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous **except in matters affecting other groups** or N.A. as a whole.

To all with love and service. Keep coming back.