



# Al-Anon Family Groups

## Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

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The World Service Office (WSO) has received many queries from members regarding how groups, Districts, and Areas should function considering the novel coronavirus COVID-19. As a clearinghouse of information for the Al-Anon Family Groups, the WSO has no informed guidance to offer on health matters. As in every challenging situation though, our experience, strength, and hope encourage us to rely on the principles found in the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service to guide us. In this situation particularly, we recognize the wisdom expressed in Tradition Two which urges the WSO, Areas, Districts, and groups to rely upon “one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

To ensure our group conscience decisions regarding Staff safety and wellbeing at the WSO are informed and thoughtful, we monitor reliable local, national, and global health authority advisories daily to understand the ever-evolving situation. Based on current information from the Governor of Virginia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO), the WSO is continuing business operations in the office as usual, while encouraging Staff who are ill, or are in direct contact with others who are ill, to stay at home until fully recovered. We have also implemented the proactive measures recommended to minimize the spread of the flu and COVID-19. As of today, we are continuing with plans to hold our annual World Service Conference in Virginia Beach in April. If conditions change, the Board of Trustees will reevaluate and take an informed group conscience decision at that time, communicating the results to all who might be impacted.

Similarly, in making informed decisions, we suggest groups, Districts, and Areas access national and local health authorities to gain the knowledge necessary to talk to each other and reason things out. In accordance with Tradition Four, we encourage groups to be flexible in considering alternatives that limit personal contact—anything from linking arms at the closing to temporarily holding the meeting electronically. Groups that choose this latter alternative need not register with the WSO as an Electronic Meeting unless the electronic platform becomes the group’s permanent format. Of utmost importance is providing an environment which allows Al-Anon newcomers and members the opportunity to feel safe and maintains the unity of the group.

If your group is impacted and members are not able to meet in the scheduled location, please notify your local service arms. As a suggestion, group members may want to consider attending one of the many registered Electronic Meetings found on the Meetings tab at [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org).

Thank you for allowing us to continue to be of service to our Al-Anon Family Groups.