

Guidance for Addiction Recovery Programs



Safe Practices for Recovery Programs Operating During COVID-19

Last revised 7/8/2020

Many recovery programs rely on in-person group sessions to help people with addiction, compulsion or other behavioral problems. COVID-19 has made it difficult for many groups to gather. More people and longer times increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading to others. Virtual or phone meetings are safer options and may need to be considered for high-risk individuals.

If your group is operating an essential service under the Governor's Safe Start Phase 2 guidance, then use this guidance to help keep attendees safe.

- Wear a [face covering](#).
 - Face coverings help protect others.
 - The Secretary of Health [requires face coverings](#) be worn in public spaces.
- Practice [physical distancing](#).
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from others. Arrange chairs in a manner to facilitate this.
 - Avoid handshakes or hugs.
- Keep groups as small as possible.
 - Consider having people sit by the same people during meetings to make contact tracing easier in the event of a positive case.
 - Keep a seating assignment to aid in contact tracing.
 - Encourage attendees to provide their contact information via a [visitor log](#).
- Complete [health screenings](#).
 - Ask attendees to self-screen prior to arrival or perform a check on-site before meetings.
 - Do not allow any attendees with symptoms or a temperature greater than 100.3 F to attend.
- Increase ventilation.
 - Hold meetings outside if possible.
 - If meetings cannot be held outside, open windows and doors to increase air flow.
- Increase [cleaning and disinfecting](#).
 - Focus on frequently touched items.
 - Remove items that cannot be easily cleaned, such as plush furniture.
 - If possible, reduce touch points through activities, such as propping doors open.
 - Consider removing food or coffee service to eliminate commonly touched items.
 - Provide hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for attendees to use.
- Post signage.
 - [Stay home if you're sick](#).
 - [Wash your hands](#).
 - [Cover your coughs and sneezes](#).