

Fellows,

Marijuana Anonymous World Services has been receiving inquiries about how groups should respond to the COVID-19 (corona virus.) Many of us are understandably concerned with health and safety issues and how to best proceed with our meetings and recovery in the safest way possible.

Providing guidance on health issues is outside the scope of what MAWS offers. However, we might suggest contacting your national, state/provincial, and local health authorities for appropriate information.

Please discuss this issue in your meetings and come to a consensus about what changes, if any, your group might implement. Some groups have discussed making changes to customs at their meetings such as avoiding shaking hands, hugging, and handholding for the time being, not passing MA chips around the room, making sure that coffee/food tables are sanitary, or suspending all food and drink at meetings entirely.

Some groups have discussed temporarily closing their in-person meeting altogether. If a meeting does choose to close, it is extremely important to announce the closure at other meetings, on the district or regional website, and through any other means of communication at your disposal. Also, if possible, a note/flyer should be posted at the meeting site explaining the closure.

Consider contingency plans if you do close or meeting locations become unavailable. Plans may include virtual meetings via video or conference call services such as zoom.us, freeconferencecall.com, or [google hangouts](https://google.com/hangouts), Stepchat.com and Intherooms.com, and staying connected by phone, email and social media.

Each individual is responsible for their own health decisions, regardless of decisions made by a meeting.

Phone and online meetings are available to everyone. Visit ma-phone.org for information on phone meetings. Visit ma-online.org to participate in the chat room or online meetings. If you are feeling ill, please consider these options as an alternative to attending a meeting in person.

We know that isolation can be triggering to many addicts. If you are staying away from the groups, please reach out to other fellows and stay connected to our program by phone, email, or social media. If you don't already have a meeting phone list consider making one, and if you do have one perhaps it could be updated if needed.

As of today, there is no plan to cancel or postpone the MAWS Business Conference in May entirely, although an in-person conference is very unlikely. We are discussing contingency plans and the Board of Trustees will be meeting this coming week to make a decision on how we will proceed.

Please be assured that the health and safety of all our Fellows is of the highest priority. As more information is available to us, we will pass it on to all of you.

Take care of yourselves,
The MAWS Board of Trustees