

**Northern California Public Relations  
Regarding the Future of Opening Meetings During Pandemic**

**May 16, 2020**

It is important to know this document is not a directive, rather it is a tool for your areas to take into consideration to protect the health and safety of everyone. As members of Narcotics Anonymous we have a vested interest in protecting the fellowship from the possibilities of litigation, or public controversies. As members, though our personal positions regarding the directives and how it has affected our fellowship may differ, it is important to know where the fellowship's liabilities end and where individuals may put themselves at legal risk.

Though Public Relations has no right to tell groups how to run their meetings, the Department of Public Health does have the right to make sure the recommended guidelines as set forth in the [Social Distancing Protocol](#), are followed. Adopted by every county, the Social Distancing Protocol is the means by which any location where public gatherings can occur, are following measures created to minimize the risk of infection. The protocol must be followed as per the directive in every county in our region, and a record must be kept for every meeting. Public Health Officers will have the right to request, observe, and where violations occur, cite our meetings, or the facility they are held in, ultimately leading to the possibility of fines. Though most counties use the same document in terms of defining and recording your protocol activities, some have created their own version based on the state version; you may want to check your county public health page to see which one is being used in your county. A copy of a typical Social Distancing Protocol form is included in this document, and should be saved for your records.

We took the time to visit the public health web page of every county in our region and cite the location of current directives that directly affect us. Please take the time to familiarize yourselves of where to find the directives and updates in your county. In each of these links, members may need to search out specific information, however if you follow the state directive, you will be over and above the directives of your county. Please note there is little difference between your county directive and the state directive. Also note for your records, a directive in writing is more valuable than a directive given over the phone. We recommend each area to keep a printed copy, as things change.

In terms of interpretation, some counties include a reference to Narcotics Anonymous in a FAQ related to the directive; whereas other counties refer to "meeting places", and some counties use the state's directive. We are advised that in cases where directions are not clear we should refer to the State's directive, as well in cases where directives are in conflict, the stricter of the two is to be followed.

The State of California has created a Pandemic Roadmap which is divided into four stages, to progressively open in a safe manner and minimize risk. There is already a shift in

some counties in opening from Stage One to Stage Two, which lets lower risk activities take place. So too, we are seeing an increase of mask requirements. Though the requirements may be different from county to county, none fail to make the recommendation to wear masks especially in close proximity to others as well as enclosed spaces.

In terms of our liability insurance it is important to note that our policy covers only the meeting space listed on our schedules. The holding of a meeting in any other location upon the facility property is not covered.

The goal of the Northern California Public Relations Committee is to assure the best information for your areas to use, and is committed to helping all areas navigate through the information and provide support to safely begin to return to the meeting facilities with the attention to limiting the risk of liability, public controversy, and moreover the protection of members and the fellowship as a whole.

Thank you for letting me be of service  
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## Public Health Links for the Counties in the Northern California Region

Alameda- <https://covid-19.acgov.org/index.page> Under health care heading

Butte- <http://www.buttecounty.net/ph/ButteReopens>

Colusa- <http://www.countyofcolusa.org/DocumentCenter/View/12403/PressRelease-ReopeningPlan-V03>

Contra Costa-<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions>  
Recommendations under Healthcare Operations

El Dorado-  
<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/hhsa/Documents/El%20Dorado%20-%20shelter-in-place%20directive%203-19-2020.pdf>

Glenn-  
<https://www.countyofglenn.net/sites/default/files/Glenn%20County%20Recovery%20Plan%205-13-2020%20-%20Updated.pdf>

Humbolt-  
<https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/84939/Shelter-in-Place---Revised-Effective-March-30-until-Rescinded?bidId=>

Order open until rescision

<https://humboldt.gov/2725/Local-Orders#AllowableServices>

Under "Meeting Halls."

Lake- <http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Assets/Departments/Health/Public+Health+Division/COVID-19/Forward051520.pdf>

Marin- <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/marin-public-health-order-april-29-2020>

Section 16

Mendocino- <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/Home/Components/News/News/5117/3242>

Monterey- Face Covering Requirement <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/Home/Components/News/News/7283/1336>  
<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=90203>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>

Napa- <https://www.countyofnapa.org/DocumentCenter/View/17112/Shelter-at-Home-Order-4-22-2020--?bidId=>

Nevada-

<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/33812/Nevada-County-FAQs-on-Stay-at-Home-Order?bidId=>

Specifically Stated under Health and Medical

Placer- <https://www.placer.ca.gov/Faq.aspx?TID=211>

Plumas- <https://www.plumascounty.us/2699/Plumas-County-Re-Opening-Documents>

Sacramento- <https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Documents/ME-HealthOfficerOrder20200501.pdf>

San Benito- <https://hhsa.cosb.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SBC-FAQ-Re-CA-Executive-Order-N.33.20-v2.pdf>  
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<https://hhsa.cosb.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/1SBC-Expanded-Stage-2-Update-Packet.pdf>

San Francisco-  
<https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/Stay%20Safe%20at%20Home%20Health%20Officer%20Order%20FAQs%20Rev%205.7.pdf>  
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San Joaquin-  
<http://www.sjcphs.org/documents/20200508%20Combined%20Order%20and%20all%20attachments.pdf>  
Not defined, refer to state guidelines: <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>  
Stage Two Map [https://www.sjgov.org/covid19/Phase\\_2\\_PR\\_5\\_7\\_20\\_Final.pdf](https://www.sjgov.org/covid19/Phase_2_PR_5_7_20_Final.pdf)

San Mateo-  
[https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/health\\_officer\\_order\\_revising\\_shelter\\_in\\_place\\_through\\_may\\_31\\_1.pdf?1588200596](https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/health_officer_order_revising_shelter_in_place_through_may_31_1.pdf?1588200596)

Santa Clara- <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#faq>  
Under Healthcare Operations

Santa Cruz- <https://www.santacruzcounty.us/ShelterinPlaceFAQ.aspx>  
Under Healthcare Operations

Shasta-  
[https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/hhsa-docs/roadmap-for-shasta-county\\_05\\_08\\_2020.pdf?sfvrsn=10c5f389\\_0](https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/hhsa-docs/roadmap-for-shasta-county_05_08_2020.pdf?sfvrsn=10c5f389_0)

Sierra- <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>

Solano- <https://admin.solanocounty.com:4433/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=32212>  
Recommendation to follow state directives: <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>

Sonoma- <https://socoemergency.org/order-of-the-health-officer-no-19-09-shelter-in-place-extended/>  
Expressed specifically sighting NA

Sutter & Yuba- [https://www.suttercounty.org/assets/pdf/2020-05-04\\_COVID-19\\_Limit\\_Activities\\_Order.pdf?t=1](https://www.suttercounty.org/assets/pdf/2020-05-04_COVID-19_Limit_Activities_Order.pdf?t=1)

Tehama- <https://www.tehamahealthservices.net/psa-tehama-county-meets-readiness-criteria/>

**Link to Social Distancing Protocol form:**

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Documents/ARegionalppendix-A-Social-Distancing-Protocol.pdf>

**Link to the NCRSC Insurance Policy**

[https://norcalna.org/pdf/2019-07-06%20\(01\)%20Insurance%20Meeting%20Packet%202019-07-06.pdf](https://norcalna.org/pdf/2019-07-06%20(01)%20Insurance%20Meeting%20Packet%202019-07-06.pdf)

**NCRSC COVID-19 Statement**

[https://norcalna.org/pdf/2020-04-04\\_%20NCRSO\\_BOD\\_Covid-19.pdf](https://norcalna.org/pdf/2020-04-04_%20NCRSO_BOD_Covid-19.pdf)