



FAQ's ABOUT HOSTING IN-PERSON SELF HELP GROUP MEETINGS

Do I have to bring my group back together in-person? Absolutely not! If your group is not comfortable coming back together in-person, you do not need to do so. You are welcome to remain a virtual group as long as you wish.

Can my group meet in-person and online? Sure! Groups can meet in-person, virtually or both. Work with your staff partner to talk about what is best for your group.

My group location/venue is no longer available for meetings. What other types of venues should we be looking at? Many of our groups are held in public use rooms that are located in medical offices, community centers, or office buildings. Some are held at libraries, churches, or restaurants. Meeting spaces need to be accessible, and your staff partner can help you determine if the space meets accessibility standards.

Can I require participants to be vaccinated to attend a group meeting? No, groups are open to all constituents regardless of vaccination status. If vaccination status is an uncomfortable topic in your group and you anticipate challenges following the safety protocol, you do not need to come back together in person.

Can I ask members of the group to prove that they are vaccinated to attend the meeting? We will not be requiring proof of vaccination. All meeting participants are required to follow the safety protocol which includes wearing facial covering.

Can I require that everyone wears a facial covering regardless of vaccination status? Facial coverings are now required for all members regardless of vaccination status.

Can we have food and drinks during our meeting? If the Society Safety Standards can be met, you may have food at your meeting. We also recommend individual, pre-packaged food to the extent possible.

Can I submit reimbursement for meeting supplies? Yes! Your venue may already have sufficient cleaning protocols in place but if you need to purchase supplies to supplement cleaning in order to follow the safety protocol and conduct a safe meeting, work with your staff partner to be reimbursed.

Do we need to communicate safety standards and protocols prior to every meeting or just the first meeting? You will only need to send the safety standards and protocols communication prior to the first time your group comes together in person. However, please continue to post a sign on the door with the screening questions for those who may not have received prior notification.

Will the members coming to the group be asked to sign the safety standards and protocol to show that they have been made aware of the protocols? No, you will send out a communication to members that asks that they review and understand the safety standards and protocols. Additionally, you will post a sign on the door with the screening questions for those who may not have received prior notification.

If after meeting in person someone tests positive COVID-19, what is the protocol? You will follow your local health and reporting mandates if this happens. In addition, please connect with your staff partner to discuss communication with group members.

Can we meet in a park or another outside area? Sure! We still ask that you follow the same safety standards and protocol as outlined for all in person meetings.

Can speakers still attend group meetings? Yes. Speakers will need to follow the same safety standards and protocol as group members. You should send the safety standards and protocols communication to the speaker prior to the meeting.

What if the venue requires vaccination? All participants will need to adhere to venue requirements. Connect with your staff partner to discuss alternative venue options if you determine that a new meeting space is needed.