

## **COVID -19 and AA Meeting Attendance - WHAT AM I TO DO?**

Many of us AA members point to the AA Responsibility Statement as a basis for continuing to attend meetings in the midst of COVID-19. You know the short version; “When anyone anywhere reaches for the hand of AA (insert elbow joke here) I want the hand of AA to be there and for that I am responsible.” Others in our fellowship have taken to heart what health and government officials are recommending such as staying home when possible and demonstrating responsible social distancing if going out is a necessity. We are encouraged to do this more to protect others than out of fear for ourselves. I think both points of view are valid and to be respected.

These two options do however present a dilemma....a problem with two seemingly unacceptable solutions. You know, like dying an alcoholic death or living life on a spiritual basis. In this case the choice is whether to go or not to go to AA meetings. Many workplaces are encouraging nonessential personnel to work remotely. Maybe there is a case to be made for this in AA. I would agree that someone needs to be at the home group... but not everybody needs to be there. Perhaps a group can identify 3 to 5 volunteer members to open and attend a particular meeting. This assures a real live person is there to receive a newcomer or to provide comfort to someone who may be struggling with their sobriety. It also minimizes the overall attendance and provides room for social distancing. I have to ask myself if my attendance is self-centered or truly motivated with the best interest of the suffering alcoholic in mind.

There are many other considerations and perhaps no easy one size fits all solution. Just something to think about.