



Greetings Everyone,

Hope all is well. A group at area requested a summery of the Public Health orders as they apply to our in-person groups. The following summery is up to date as of March 4th, 2021. Keeping in mind these orders can change, please refer to <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/> for the most up to date orders and guidelines.

Public Health orders that affect all groups meeting in-person in Central Nova Area:
(Reference: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/avoiding-infection/>)

1) Physical distancing – 6 foot bubble around all chairs at a meeting, Chairs are not to be moved during the meeting. This would include the chairperson and if seated at the same table/spot, the meeting secretary.

2) Gathering Limit - Our meetings come under “recognized business or organizations” or “addictions support groups” in the public health orders. Please see this website for the most up to date gathering limits for your area: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/county-restrictions/>

Currently (From Feb 27th until at least March 26th but may be extended):

Outside Halifax, Hants and Lunenburg counties: up to 50% of the venues capacity to a maximum of 100 people with physical distancing. Your actual capacity might be less then 50%.

In Halifax, Hants and Lunenburg counties: up to 25 people with physical distancing. Your actual capacity may be less.

3) Cleaning – sanitizing of all high touch spots and items. This includes but is not limited to: readings, key tags, chairs, tables, washroom(s) and anything else used by the group. Hand sanitizer and / or hand washing facilities must be provided and available for meeting attendees.

4) Mask wearing – Masks must be worn at all times while in the meeting space by all attendees including people sharing, chairperson and secretary. There are exceptions for medical grounds and young children (under 2yrs old).

(ref: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/masks/>)

5) Recording attendees contact information – because of the semi public nature of our meetings we need to record the names and contact information of people attending our meetings. This information must be kept confidential (not disclosed to anyone except a public health officer if required, not in open view at the meeting). When recording the information only the person taking it down is to handle or view the list. This information is to only be used by Public Health officers if meeting attendees need to be contacted. It needs to be kept for 14 days from the date of the meeting after which it must be destroyed.

6) Separate entrance and exit - Into and from the meeting space. This is to prevent bottlenecks and violation of physical distancing rules at doorways.

7) Physical contact – There is unfortunately no hugging, hand shaking etc, between attendees.

8) Food and Drink – Food and drinks may not be distributed by the group at the meeting. Attendees may bring drinks to the meeting. However masks can only be removed while in the act of drinking or eating, between drinks or bites masks must be worn.

9) Split meetings - We can hold more then one meeting at a facility (at the same time) as long as: All of the above requirements are met. Meetings are held in separate rooms. Both the entrance and exit for each meeting is different, not shared in any way. Separate washroom facilitates for each group. The groups of people attending each meeting do not mix in anyway at anytime during the course of the meetings. This would include before and after the meeting on the meeting property.

It is important that we remain vigilant and follow all the orders as they apply to our groups. If we choose to attend in person meetings it is everyone's responsibility to help create a safe and welcoming space for new comers and all members alike. Remember we are representatives of Narcotics Anonymous while at our meetings both inside and outside the meeting. Public health knows we are meeting and our meeting information is public, they have the authority to show up at a meeting and verify the orders are being followed. The area executive wants to thank all groups and members for the work you do to keep our meetings safe and welcoming both in-person and online.

If you have any questions feel free to contact any of the area executive,

Yours in service,
Central Nova Area executive.