

# COVID-19 Directive

## Alcoholic Anonymous Meetings

### Phase 1

*Date: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

A First Nation of Eeyou Istchee submitted a request on the advisability of resuming AA meetings in their community.

These activities are part of supportive interventions for individuals struggling with dependency difficulties; as such, they are included under the “non-essential health care services” allowed to restart in **Phase 1** of the deconfinement plan.

AA meetings involving gatherings of individuals in a community setting, the following specific conditions are provided to manage the risk associated with the activity in Cree communities:

#### **A. Monitor workers, volunteer, and clients state of health**

- Before being allowed in, workers, volunteers and clients need to answer the following questions:
  - Have you been out in a region considered at [high risk](#) in the last 2 weeks?
  - Are you in contact with someone who has COVID-19?
  - Any worker answering yes to any of these questions must return home and [Self-isolate](#)
- Also, advise workers and volunteers not to come to work or participate in the organization’s activities if they have symptoms suggestive of the disease
  - To do so, question workers, volunteers and clients before they enter the premises to verify whether symptoms are present, by asking the following:
    - Do you have any of these symptoms: cough, fever, difficulty breathing, sudden loss of sense of taste or smell?
    - *Note: Temperature taking is not recommended because the results are unreliable, especially for people who work outdoors.*
- If any workers answer yes to any of these questions, they must Call the local CMC (see <https://www.creehealth.org/about-us/contacts>)
- If there is a **case of COVID-19 in the work place**, the public health authorities will have to conduct an investigation to determine the level of contact with other people. Depending on the assessment, other workers might also have to be tested and self-isolate for 14 days.

## **B. Ensure proper physical Distancing**

- Keep a minimum distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from and between persons;
  - Keep groups small, below 10 clients maximum, or less considering the space needed for physical distancing
  - An intervention that takes place 2 metres from others does not require additional measures.
  - A brief intervention (under 15 minutes) that takes place less than 2 metres from another person does not require additional measures.
- In situations where a long intervention with a client may be necessary (more than 15 minutes) or for a brief intervention with a high risk of aggression (e.g., spitting, biting, physical contact), which must take place within 2 metres of the person:
  - Wear a procedural mask (or a scarf if no mask is available), protective eyewear and gloves.
  - After intervening with the client, safely remove the gloves, the protective eyewear and the procedural mask and place them in a trash can (if available on site) or in designated resealable bags or containers, then dispose of them.
- **Promote hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette among employees, volunteers and clients**
- Providing workers with all necessary supplies (running water, soap, hydroalcoholic solutions, touchless trash cans, disposable tissues, napkins or paper towels, etc.).
- Ensure that hands are washed or that a hydroalcoholic solution is used by everyone, upon entering the organization:
- Provide an accessible place to wash hands with soap and water and/or make available a hydroalcoholic solution.
- Encourage everyone to cough into a bent elbow, or into a tissue that is discarded immediately after use, then washing hands as soon as possible

## **C. Ensure adequate disinfection:**

- Frequency of disinfection of **toilets** at least twice per shift, i.e.: once in the middle of the shift and once at the end of the shift.
- Frequency of **lunch room cleaning**: should be done before breaks and before lunchtime and at the end of the shift.

- **Frequently-touched surfaces** (refrigerators, microwaves, tables, counters, door handles, telephones, computer accessories, pencils, etc.) with the usual cleaning and disinfecting products on each shift, or whenever a new user takes over the workspace.

If you require further assistance or need greater detail please send you inquiry or request to: [covidrisk@cngov.ca](mailto:covidrisk@cngov.ca) or call: 1-866-855-2811

### **Useful resources**

#### [COVID-19: Interim Recommendations for Community Organizations](#)

Daily Checklist

[Download the Quick reference \(PDF | 945 Kb\)](#)

Sanitary Environment

[Download the Quick reference \(PDF | 950 Kb\)](#)