

Recommendations for Neighborhood Meetings during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Several neighborhood leaders have asked about the resumption of neighborhood meetings. While we are NOT healthcare professionals, we have developed a set of guidelines based on Mayor Cooper's 4-Phase Reopening Plan.

KEY FACTORS

There are at least four key factors to consider when determining whether to resume in-person neighborhood meetings and gatherings.

Plan Phase

The Mayor's Plan reopens the county in four phases. It is important to know what phase of reopening we are in and the recommendations about public meetings, masks and other requirements for that phase.

Demographics

Neighborhood groups with larger numbers of seniors or other at-risk individuals should consider this critical factor prior to hosting and in-person meetings or gatherings. Safety of your neighbors should be a number one priority. You may want to at least provide for the option of online or phone participation.

Space Limitations

The space you use must accommodate physical distancing requirements (6 feet or more between people). Also, make sure your regular space will be open prior to announcing any in-person meeting.

Member Preferences

The decision to hold in-person meetings should not be made unilaterally. Your leadership team should consult your members to determine their wishes. It does not good to hold a meeting if no one is going to show up. Respect the wishes of your members.

PROVISIONS

After reviewing the best medical advice, we believe that everyone attending an in-person meeting or gathering should be required to wear a mask (no exceptions). Since masks are not intended to protect the wearer, but to protect those around them, it would be unwise to admit anyone not wearing a mask.

Neighborhood organizations may choose to provide masks. However, it is important that someone with personal protective equipment (gloves and mask) hand the individual mask to each participant.

Meeting Guidelines

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PRESENT DAY

Safer at Home Restrictions: No public gathering over 10 people

10 People or Less	In-person meetings permitted under the following conditions: Meeting space must accommodate for physical distancing Everyone must wear a mask (no exceptions) Physical distancing rules must apply (6 feet or more between people) Clean all surfaces immediately prior and following the meeting No shared food or drink We recommend an option to participate online or by phone
More than 10 People	No public gatherings permitted Recommend online meetings

PHASE ONE

Safer at Home Restrictions: No public gathering over 10 people

10 People or Less	In-person meetings permitted under the following conditions: Meeting space must accommodate for physical distancing Everyone must wear a mask (no exceptions) Physical distancing rules must apply (6 feet or more between people) Clean all surfaces immediately prior and following the meeting No shared food or drink We recommend an option to participate online or by phone
More than 10 People	No public gatherings permitted Recommend online meetings

PHASE TWO

Safer at Home Restrictions: Small gatherings up to 50 people

50 People or Less	In-person meetings permitted under the following conditions: Meeting space must accommodate for physical distancing Everyone must wear a mask (no exceptions) Physical distancing rules must apply (6 feet or more between people) Clean all surfaces immediately prior and following the meeting No shared food or drink We recommend an option to participate online or by phone
More than 50 People	No public gatherings permitted Recommend online meetings

PHASE THREE

Safer at Home Restrictions: Small gatherings up to 100 people

100 People or Less	In-person meetings permitted under the following conditions: Meeting space must accommodate for physical distancing Everyone must wear a mask (no exceptions) Physical distancing rules must apply (6 feet or more between people) Clean all surfaces immediately prior and following the meeting No shared food or drink We recommend an option to participate online or by phone
More than 100 People	No public gatherings permitted Recommend online meetings

We believe that Phase Four Guidelines may change dramatically by the time we reach this stage. We will provide further guidelines as we near the beginning of Phase Four.