

Updated Oct 24, 2020

Coronavirus – COVID-19 – Potential Impact for D.A. Members/Meetings

The General Service Office and the GSB have received a number of inquiries regarding the ongoing impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on D.A. face-to-face meetings and the General Service Office, as well as the annual World Service Conference in 2021.

We will follow the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, U.S.-based) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE — Hours of Operation

The General Service Office of Debtors Anonymous, located in Needham, Massachusetts has resumed normal hours of operation. Please anticipate that there still may be a delay in fulfilling literature orders.

We ask that you please continue to limit your communication with the General Service Office to email at office@debtorsanonymous.org

If you are a member and are considering sending a contribution, please make your contribution through the Debtors Anonymous website at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/contribute>

This will be most helpful and appreciated. Thank you for your patience.

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

The 2020 World Service Conference took place in August 2020 using Zoom videoconferencing. The 2021 World Service Conference is currently scheduled to take place in August in Newark, New Jersey. Any updates on the status of the 2021 World Service Conference will be relayed to the Fellowship on the website. More details about the virtual Conference are available at debtorsanonymous.org/wsc

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Many administrators of churches, hospitals, and other spaces have stayed closed to D.A. and other 12-Step meetings, either for a specific length of time or indefinitely. Members have also wondered whether their group should proactively decide to suspend face-to-face meetings.

All groups are autonomous; D.A. as a whole cannot advise any group toward any single course of action in this matter. Gathering information from reliable professional sources might help contribute to an informed group conscience. Ultimately, it is up to each member and each group to make decisions about attending and holding meetings, considering their own individual and collective health and safety considerations.

The CDC has up-to-date information and suggests the following for prevention, including:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and other people.
- Wear a mask in public.

Your group may want to consider other ways to meet, including remotely, by phone or the Internet. You can make temporary updates to your meeting listing on the world D.A. website at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/meetings>

Some options for setting up conference calls at the regular meeting time might include the following: (This is not an endorsement of any of these services, just some suggestions.)

- FreeConferenceCall.com (and other “free calling” services)
- Zoom (and other videoconferencing platforms)
- Google Hangouts (Chrome app)
- WhatsApp

The list of D.A. meetings that have temporarily moved to teleconference or video conference (in the meeting’s time zone) with access information is available at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/temp-list>

A guide to getting your meeting online quickly is available on the D.A. website at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/virtual-meeting-guide>

D.A. TELEPHONE AND INTERNET MEETINGS

There are currently many established D.A. telephone, Internet, and Skype meetings. These meetings can be found on the D.A. website under “Find a Meeting” – which lists Telephone, Internet, and Skype meetings.

There is also an Intergroup specifically for telephone meetings: the Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup (DATIG). The DATIG website lists all the current telephone meetings and may also include additional resources, such as meeting formats and contacts: <http://www.datig.net/>

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If you have the desire to incur unsecured debt, reach out for help to others in the Fellowship, or call or email contacts at your local or Regional Intergroup.

Thank you for sharing this information at meetings and with other members. We wish everyone good health and continued recovery in D.A.