

5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The Department of Health have informed us of the removal of restrictions for drug and alcohol support groups coming into effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

We are asking all groups to please consider the guidance that has been issued to us by the department of Health, specifically asking that groups might consider a risk assessment of its meeting venues. Please also remember that not all members have been vaccinated.

**From the Department of Health:**

*“The Govt public health measures will change on 22nd Oct as the majority of public health restrictions will be lifted, including those that impact on indoor events. This will mean the lifting of all restrictions for drug and alcohol support groups. At that stage, it will be up to organisations and individuals to determine appropriate precautions.*

*However, self-isolation will still be required where individuals have Covid-19 symptoms. Guidance on close contacts should also be adhered to. Mask wearing in healthcare settings, indoor retail and on public transport will also continue.*

*In advance of 22nd Oct, AA might consider conducting a risk assessment of its meeting environments and of its members to determine what, if any, precautions should be put in place to mitigate the ongoing risk of Covid-19.*

*For further guidance, see link below for Govt plan for the final phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic: COVID-19: Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting.*

*<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3361b-public-health-updates/>*

*Jim Walsh  
Dept of Health*

We know that within AA things are changing, there are more physical meetings opening up and because of this, in some groups, a reduction in the number of online meetings.

Please remember that there are many members that reply on [www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie) to find meetings. If your group doesn't let us know that you are back open, the still suffering alcoholic will find it difficult to find your meeting. In the normal way, please keep us informed of all meeting changes.

Kind Regards.  
Emmet  
Leinster Trustee