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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Al-Anon members,

The General Service Board of Al-Anon Family Groups Australia is well aware the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is raising concerns for our members. We encourage our Al-Anon family to stay updated on the status of the COVID-19 situation in order to make informed decisions regarding participation in group, District, Area and National meetings and activities.

We suggest all our members monitor the Department of Health website (linked in) and follow advice given by them.

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Here are some useful health and safety suggestions for groups and members:

- Ensure your hands have been well washed before entering a meeting
- Groups may wish to discuss what practices (if any) that they may wish to implement locally e.g. have hand sanitiser available in the group meeting; refrain from passing literature around during the meeting; decide not to hold hands during the Serenity Prayer
- Communicate the decisions reached by the group at the start of the meeting. Review and revise the decisions if and when any new information becomes available
- If you feel physically unwell then stay at home

Here are some suggestions for maintaining communication within the Al-Anon structure regarding the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Advise your Area office and AGSO as soon as possible of any changes to your group meeting
- Consider whether it is advisable to hold District or Area meetings and Assemblies at this time
- Consider using electronic communication e.g. Skype, Zoom for any smaller service meetings

We would suggest that each group considers all of our Traditions in any decisions that they make particularly considering our common welfare in Tradition 1.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation and post updates on our national website as required.

<https://www.al-anon.org.au/coronavirus>

Yours in Al-Anon service,

Chairperson  
General Service Board