

# Traditional Meeting Return FAQ

BNI Atlanta: Version: 6/03/2021

## What is TMR?

TMR is an acronym for Traditional Meeting Return. TMR is a temporary transition process (8 week) that allows our BNI Chapters to safely return to in-person weekly meetings. During the TMR Program, the Chapters will have the option to full meet in-person or to run a hybrid/blended meeting. Those members who may not yet be ready to return to an in-person meeting due to a COVID-19 related situation, an online environment will be provided to participate actively and safely for a period of time.

## Are there any TMR Resources to help our Chapter with this process?

Yes! We have a BNI TMR Resource web page to keep you updated on TMR processes, State COVID-19 Orders and other Chapter materials to successfully carry out the program.

<https://bniatl.com/en-US/TMR>

## How do we begin the TMR process?

If the time seems appropriate for your Chapter to restart in-person meetings, the Chapter's President will need to complete and submit a [BNI Chapter TMR Application](#). This online application form is found on our TMR Resource web page ([www.bniatl.com](http://www.bniatl.com)). Click the "TMR" option on the top menu.

Check out the **BNI TMR Process and COVID Prevention** document in the TMR Resources to learn more.

## Do I have to wear a mask in the meeting?

Your Chapter will follow all State, county, and local city orders as well as your venue's guidelines. Please stay up to date on these orders as they are modified. These legal requirements are being reduced monthly as the COVID-19 cases decrease. Please ask your venue what is needed or appropriate. There is no official State of Georgia mask mandate, but some businesses and local city governments have issued ordinances that will need to be followed.

## What would happen if I said "Yes" that I am comfortable going back in-person to help the Chapter return, but I intend to stay online?

The goal here is to get the entire Chapter back to meeting in-person again. If the Chapter achieves the required 80% from the anonymous survey to return to in-person meetings, the Chapter's VP is asked to solicit each member privately on how they intend to participate in the Weekly Meeting (In-person at the venue or remain online). The Chapter will need to achieve the 80% in-person percentage again to move forward in the TMR process. If a member chose to be in-person, they or their substitute will be required to be at the venue for the weekly meeting or be marked absent. The BNI Attendance Policy will be in full effect to stabilize the meeting. Flip flopping between in-person or online meetings out of convenience will not be allowed.

### **What would happen if I said “No” to going back in-person, NOT because of a COVID related reason, but because of my own convenience of the online meeting?**

If your business model has changed during the past year and/or you have seen a more efficient way of participating as a member with online networking meetings, you are a great candidate for an BNI Online Only Chapter. If you are opposed to returning to in-person meetings for reasons other than an appropriate COVID related situation, this may seriously damage your credibility and trust with your referral partners in the room. After the Chapter’s anonymous survey is complete, the membership committee will be privately asking online members when you will be ready for your in-person return. Because hybrid/blended meetings are more difficult to manage and conduct, we are asking our Leadership Teams to run a hybrid meeting format for no more than 8 weeks so that the entire team can prepare to be fully return in-person.

### **When will the TMR Process or Hybrid Meetings end?**

BNI Atlanta is currently planning to end all Hybrid/Blended BNI Meetings (meaning both online and in-person) by December of 2021. At this time, those Chapters who have not fully converted to in-person meetings will be asked to either to return to in-person meetings at a venue or remain fully online using the BNI Online platform (Zoom). Those Chapters who remain fully online after this date will have an option to convert back to an in-person meeting at a later date, but the BNI hybrid/blended meeting option will no longer be available.

### **Does the Chapter have to wait until December to eliminate the weekly Hybrid Meeting Format?**

No. The TMR is intended to be a temporary transition process for your Chapter to fully return in-person meetings. With the COVID-19 cases continuing to decrease and the vaccine out, we all are getting back to our normal lives and routines. The GA State and local government legal requirements are also being eliminated or reduced each month. The TMR process is an 8 week or less transition period. We have permanent online BNI Chapters available to those who may not want to return out of convenience or any other reason. Please contact your Area Director for more information.

### **When can we set our Chapter’s in-person meeting return date?**

Your Chapter’s return date will be selected by both the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and by the BNI Regional Office. At this time, all BNI Chapters are required to receive written approval from the regional office before returning in-person. This date is selected during the TMR Chapter Training Webinar.

### **What happens if a someone comes down with COVID after the meeting?**

We ask every member or visitor to contact the Chapter President if they become down with a COVID-19 related illness immediately. The Chapter President will then communicate to all meeting attendees and to the Regional BNI Office that they may have had exposure to COVID-19 in the Weekly Meeting. The Chapter will also need to meet back online for next two weeks according to the TMR safety protocol that is out lined in the TMR Manual and Webinar Training.

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If you have further questions on the BNI TMR Process, please email Mike Barbieri (Executive Director) at [mike@bniatl.com](mailto:mike@bniatl.com). You may also check out the [TMR Resources webpage](#) for more information.