

THE GRAND LODGE

of Ancient, Free and
Accepted Masons
of North Carolina



January 6, 2022

LARRY B. THOMPSON, JR.
GRAND MASTER 2022

lthompson@glnc.us

Brethren,

I hope this message finds you and your family well and safe as we find ourselves facing a new threat from COVID-19, this time in the form of the Omicron variant. My goal in issuing this statement is to keep our brethren and their families as safe as possible while we continue to meet and fellowship.

You have already heard much in the news and elsewhere about how to protect yourselves and your families. I will not restate the recommended guidance, but I will refer you to two excellent web sites in case you have questions:

<https://www.nc.gov/covid19>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Since early December, several lodges have experienced outbreaks and closures due to the latest variant. Because of the highly contagious nature of this variant, your Grand Lodge offers these important protocols as we make our way through to a healthier time ahead:

- All brothers must use hand sanitizer prior to entering lodge.
- All attendees entering a lodge or participating in the functions of a lodge or appendant body WILL fully fill out the health questionnaire accurately.
- Each lodge master or presiding officer must decide if he will require masks in his lodge. Attendees may choose on their own to wear a mask if not required to do so.
- Unvaccinated attendees must wear a face covering at all times during a Masonic function. Vaccinated attendees must follow the master's or presiding officer's ruling.
- If food is served in lodge, it must be prepared by servers wearing gloves and wearing masks. Buffet lines must be administered by a server properly clothed. Self-serve buffet lines will be permissible if gloves and masks are worn by each diner. Unvaccinated members or attendees may only eat and drink within a lodge IF they observe proper social distancing guidelines.
- Anyone exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19 or having tested positive for COVID-19 within 7 days of any Masonic event SHALL NOT ATTEND any Masonic event.

The Grand Lodge will continue to monitor infection rates on a monthly basis and revisit this order as necessary. Thank you for doing your part to help keep our brothers and their families safe!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Grand Master