

THE GRAND LODGE

of Ancient, Free and
Accepted Masons
of North Carolina



P. SHAUN BRADSHAW
GRAND MASTER 2020

October 2, 2020

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Brethren,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Earlier today, the Governor announced Executive Order No. 169 (commonly referred to as Phase 3), which further eases restrictions on the number of people permitted in a "meeting hall." Specifically, section 3.8-d states that "Facilities covered by this Subsection must limit Guests in the total facility (whether indoor or outdoor) to the lesser of: 100 people; or Thirty percent (30%) of stated fire capacity (or, for facilities without a stated fire capacity, no more than seven (7) Guests for every one thousand (1000) square feet of the Guest area's square footage)."

As such, I am amending my previous order dated September 4, 2020, (Order No. 9) to align with this new guidance, with some additional requirements.

Effective Monday, October 5, 2020, at 5:00pm, at the Master's discretion and with due consideration for the health and well-being of his members:

1. Up to one hundred (100) members of a lodge (or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge, if less than 100) may utilize the lodge facility for stated and/or emergent communications.
2. Members must be seated 6ft apart, side to side, and front to back. Additional chairs may be added as long as the total number remains under the maximum of 100 persons or 30 percent of stated fire capacity, whichever is less.
3. Prior to the meeting, the Master shall post signage in the lodge facility clearly designating the maximum capacity of the lodge based on the above restrictions.

Further, please note that the following restrictions, requirements, and guidelines for meetings will remain in effect as provided in my previous Order and that this amended Order shall pertain to all Masonic-related activities in subordinate lodges, appendant, concordant, or adjunct Masonic organizations.

1. No member may be required to attend any Lodge or Masonic-related function if that person believes it is unsafe to do so; not withstanding an official Summons from the Grand Master, Master, or presiding officer, in which case due precautions shall be taken to protect the health and safety of the member when such summons is executed.
2. If the Master of the lodge determines it is in the best interest of his Lodge to remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic it will be allowed to remain closed until such time as the Grand Master has determined that restrictions have eased sufficiently for the lodge to reopen.
3. The Grand Presiding Officer(s) of Masonic affiliated organizations shall require their particular organizations to adhere to this order, as well as their own appendant body's rules and regulations.

4. The Master shall ensure his lodge has adequate disinfectant, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer available in the lodge prior to reopening.
5. Prior to entry into the lodge building, all members must submit to and sign a health questionnaire (see *Attachment A*). Entry shall be denied if any questionnaires are answered in the affirmative. Temperature checks with a “no touch” thermometer are encouraged.
6. Proper signage (see *Attachment B*) must be in place outside the lodge building to inform members not to enter if they are sick, do not feel well, are under quarantine restrictions, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
7. **Wearing a face covering (cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators are acceptable) in the proper manner (i.e. over the nose and mouth at all times) is required at all Masonic functions.** While the following exceptions are permitted, it is highly recommended that any person with a health condition which does not allow them to wear a face mask should consider refraining from all large gatherings at this time.
 - Any member with a documented respiratory medical condition whereby wearing a face covering would prevent the member from properly breathing, may be exempted from wearing a face mask.
 - However, the Master retains the right to refuse a brother entry into the lodge per Regulation 59-2.7 and Regulation 59-2.9, if the Master, in his discretion, deems a brother’s entry averse to the function and well-being of the lodge.
 - Any member, during the performance of a ritualistic speaking part may remove his face mask while he is speaking as long as he maintains proper social distancing from his brethren.
8. During meetings, all members present shall ensure adequate social distancing is maintained. Per CDC guidelines, proper social distancing requires at least six (6) feet between individuals.
9. To prevent cross-contamination of the lodge registry, the Secretary shall record all members present for the meeting in the registry book.
10. Members are encouraged to bring their own aprons to the meetings. Should a member require the use of a lodge apron, the Master will ensure all used aprons are properly cleaned prior to the next meeting.
11. Shaking hands is discouraged.
12. Hand sanitizer shall be provided by the lodge and shall be readily available both inside and outside the lodge room. Running water, soap, and disposable paper towels are required in all rest rooms.
13. Prior to the meeting the Tyler will attend the door to the lodge room and take up the pass as each brother enters. The pass may be given in a regular voice and from a moderate distance from the Tyler. All members shall maintain proper social distancing while they await entry into the lodge room. Upon opening the lodge, the Deacons will receive the pass from the Tyler who received it from the brethren as they entered the lodge.
14. Visitation of members from other lodges is permitted; however, all members of the lodge shall be seated before visitors are granted entry.
15. Degree work is permitted in the lodge; however, it is preferred that lodges request dispensations for outdoor degrees as long as weather permits.

16. Those brethren who come into contact with the candidate(s) must wear gloves in addition to masks.
17. Each candidate shall have his own Volume of Sacred Law to use during the obligation.
18. The lodge may wish to provide individual, temporary squares and compasses for each candidate, meaning each lodge may consider purchasing extra sets of squares and compasses to have for each candidate, which he can keep with his Volume of Sacred Law and continue to use throughout his degrees.
19. Candidates may be examined in lodge.
20. No meals shall be prepared or served in the lodge building. Members are encouraged to eat prior to attending the meeting.
21. Voting by a show of hands and written ballots are permitted. Prior to a written ballot, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to handing out and turning in the paper ballot. In addition, the Master or Secretary shall have sufficient pens or pencils available for each member present during the vote.
22. Petitions for candidates may be received by the lodge and **secret ballots are permitted unless a member of the lodge is denied entry into the meeting** due to the lodge reaching its maximum capacity (the lesser of 100 members or 30% of the maximum capacity of the lodge room). Prior to taking a secret ballot, the Master shall ensure that the ballot box, all white balls, and black cubes have been properly sanitized. When voting begins, each member shall use hand sanitizer prior to voting.
23. Masters are encouraged to keep meetings to 1 hour or less.
24. The Master shall ensure all high-touch surfaces in the lodge building are properly disinfected before and after each meeting.
25. Any lodge or other Masonic affiliated organization that has a confirmed COVID-19 exposure or infection at a Masonic function shall:
 - Immediately contact the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge office with the date of the exposure and names of all members in attendance.
 - The Master shall contact all exposed members so they may take proper precautions by quarantining and/or getting tested for the virus.
 - Shut down the building until it has been properly sanitized by a commercial cleaner.

If you have any questions or concerns about any information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or contact our Grand Lodge office.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,



Shaun Bradshaw

