



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Oklahoma
www.gloklahoma.com



Grand Master

P.O. Box 1019
Guthrie, OK 73044
Bus: (405) 282-3212
Fax: (405) 0282-3244

August 25, 2020

EDICT #8

Dear Oklahoma Masons:

The COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting our lives here in Oklahoma. The number of contracted cases and deaths continue to rise daily, although the number of cases seems to be leveling off.

I have been monitoring the statistics put out by the Oklahoma State Department of Health and I feel that we must continue to maintain our current status to help prevent the spread of the virus in our fraternity. We must keep in mind that nothing is as important as the well-being of our Brothers.

I, along with the Grand Lodge Trustees, feel that the following edict will help to insure the safety and well-being of ALL of our members. The following restrictions are given using the most up-to-date guidelines from the CDC and the OSDH. www.coronavirus.health.ok.gov www.cdc.gov

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY.
THERE ARE SOME CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS EDICT.

I am issuing this edict with the following restrictions **to begin September 1, 2020:**

There are several things that must continue to be done to help with the safety and well-being of our members while attending ALL Masonic meetings and gatherings:

Washing Hands/Hand Sanitizing (mandatory)

Wearing Masks (mandatory)

Social Distancing (mandatory)

Temperature Testing (recommended)

- Lodges may hold STATED MEETINGS, opening on any degree, for conducting all business of the lodge. SOCIAL DISTANCING (6 feet apart) is one of the keys to preventing the spread of the virus and should be maintained at all times. (For Degree work, see below.) MASKS MUST BE PROPERLY WORN when in the lodge building, including the lodge room, during meetings and degrees. HAND SANITIZER must be readily available on entering the Lodge building and at the Tyler's station when entering the lodge room. Some Lodges are using no-touch thermometers to check temperatures. I highly recommend, but it is not mandatory.
- NOTE: NON-TOUCH TEMPERATURE CHECKS (if your Lodge is providing) should be done at the entrance door of the Lodge building. HAND SANITIZER should also be provided at the same location.
- When BALLOTING, a Brother should be on both sides and 6 feet away from the altar with HAND SANITIZER to dispense hand sanitizer to the members after they ballot.

- Lodges may perform DEGREE WORK with everyone involved wearing MASKS and maintaining SOCIAL DISTANCING when possible during degrees. Anything a Lodge can do to limit contact between Brothers will be helpful in eliminating the possible spread of the virus.
- ALL Masons who attend Lodge must LEGIBLY sign the Tiler Register with their name. If a Brother is not a regular attending member please include contact information (phone #). This information will be used for CONTACT TRACING in case of a positive test case.
- Visiting Lodges that you are not a member of is permitted. Be aware that attending an event outside your local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, county) could put you at a higher risk. When visiting another Lodge, you must bring your own mask and properly wear it while maintaining social distancing. There are Lodges that may need assistance to perform degrees. If you are invited to another Lodge to participate in degree work, be sure to BRING A MASK to wear during the meeting and degree.
- OTHER MASONIC FUNCTIONS, such as outdoor degrees, cornerstone ceremonies, outdoor district meetings, and outdoor fundraisers may be held as long as MASKS OR SOCIAL DISTANCING is maintained. A record of the names and contact information of everyone in attendance must be kept and made available upon request. No district meetings, district schools or fundraisers can be held inside Lodge buildings until further notice.
- FOOD/MEALS cannot be delivered, brought in, prepared, served or eaten inside the lodge building until further notice.
- All rooms and equipment that are used should be sanitized after each use.

Page 4 of 4, Edict #8, August 25, 2020

In addition to this edict, I urge the heads of other Affiliated and Appendant Masonic Bodies to follow the federal, state and local guidelines.

If any lodge does not wish to re-open under these guidelines, there will be no penalty for not opening. If the Lodge members decide that the Lodge should not open for safety reasons, please send the Grand Secretary an email to that effect. The Grand Lodge still needs to know what Lodges are not meeting.

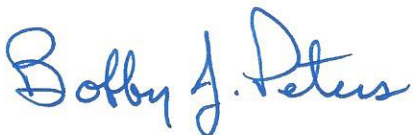
Brethren, I urge you to use your best judgement in attending Lodge. Remember our fraternity is a volunteer organization; therefore, it is not mandatory for you to attend. It is especially important to remember that if you are feeling ill, are waiting on COVID-19 test results, have tested positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms, or have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19, please stay home.

To our HIGHER RISK membership (65+ and members of all ages with underlying medical conditions): If you feel uncomfortable being around crowds, we understand if you choose to remain at home. Lodge members and officers should find ways to stay connected with these Brothers.

I would urge the Lodge Secretary to note in the minute book the dates of meetings that have not been held. Attach copies of the edicts and the guidelines of the state of Oklahoma to your minute book for future reference so they may be researched as part of the Lodge history.

I will issue future directives as the situation changes.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail,



Grand Master