



Free and Accepted Masons

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Grand Master

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March 13th, 2020

RE: Edict #2 – Suspension of ALL Masonic Work for 2 weeks due to COVID-19

Brethren,

I am sure that many of you are aware of the situation that the country is having pertaining to the COVID-19 (aka Corona Virus) as of late. And Given that many of our Masonic members are in the high-risk group, it is my decision to issue an edict cancelling all Masonic meetings for at least the next two weeks. This decision will affect all stated meetings, degree work, family nights, ritual practice, fundraisers, or any other large crowd events that may be scheduled at your local lodges and appendant bodies. The only exception to this is that it WILL NOT include the essential office staff that is necessary to run the day to day business of each body. These are pertinent and will continue as normal. We just need to avoid the large gatherings for a short period. Also, this will not effect any out of state travel that you may have scheduled as we do not have authority over those jurisdictions, however I would strongly encourage you to reach out to each of those areas that you may be planning to travel to in order to verify that they are not doing likewise as I have been in contact with several other jurisdictions and they are reciprocating what we are purposing as well. This temporary suspension of Masonic work will be adhered to up, and until Monday, March 30th at which time you may resume normal activity. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Grand Lodge office or myself, and please be careful and WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY.

Fraternally,

MW David Bradley
Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas

How to Protect Yourself

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

alert icon

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

Take steps to protect yourself



Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).

Take steps to protect others



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).



Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. [Learn what to do if you are sick.](#)
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.



Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection