



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF DELAWARE

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OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY
MASONIC TEMPLE

DIRECTIVE No. 20-21-6 **(Update For Masonic Activities Effective May 21, 2021)**

Brethren: Governor Carney has issued revisions and updates to his Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that will continue to impact the way we do things with our families, our businesses, and our many masonic activities. The recent announcements from the CDC and Governor Carney's Office, it appears that there might be a little light at the end of the tunnel and restrictions are opening up a little. In keeping with Governor Carney's announced updated restrictions, our fraternity here in Delaware will adhere to the restrictions noted below, as well as all previously established practices as follows:

- Occupancy restrictions (unless over 250 persons) have been lifted entirely.
- Social Distancing requirements have been changed from 6 ft. to **3ft.**, and this Social Distancing must be maintained and managed.
- Even though occupancy restrictions have been lifted, the 3ft. Social Distancing must be maintained. Seating in lodge rooms and social areas, must be readjusted for the 3ft. Social Distancing requirement, and "No Seating" areas to maintain social distancing must be clearly marked. Table distancing and seating arrangements in banquet and social halls can be readjusted to maintain the new 3ft. distancing requirements.
- Individuals who have been fully vaccinated are not required to wear a mask (Indoors or Outdoors) unless they are in a crowded social situation; all others must wear a mask. If the 3ft. Social Distancing cannot be maintained, even these individuals must wear a mask. ***NOTE:** Lodges are NOT authorized to inspect or require the presentation of vaccination certificates/cards of brethren who do not wear face coverings; we are men of honor and we are a Cut Above...*
- **Food Service Restrictions Continue:** There can be no self-serve food service. All food must be served by dedicated servers as per the Phase II Directives and restrictions of the Governor's Office. No person, other than the server, shall touch any serving spoons, and serving staff members should be dedicated to a particular serving spoon(s). Social Distancing in any buffet line must be maintained (lodge responsibility).
- If you are moving your venue to a place other than your lodge hall, it is the responsibility of the lodge to ensure that the chosen venue is following the proper protocol and is adhering to the Governor's (and the Grand Master's) Directives & Restrictions.
- For any lodge meeting/lodge social activity, etc., it is highly recommended (from a Liability perspective), that the following steps be taken:

- Assign someone the responsibility of making documented temperature checks on all members and guests as they enter the lodge/lodge building/or alternate venue of your function.
 - Require all members and guests entering the lodge/lodge building/or alternate venue, to answer a COVID-19 questionnaire and sign.
 - Require all members and guests entering the lodge/lodge building/or alternate venue to sign a COVID-19 Liability Waiver (to be maintained by the lodge).
- Degree work may continue as long as all guidelines/directives are **strictly** followed. There are several steps that some lodges have taken to ensure a safer degree conferral. Contact the Office of the Grand Secretary for suggested steps to be taken in a degree conferral.
 - **ALL VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY VACCINATED** should continue to avoid gatherings. Be sure to remind all of your members who do not feel well, are sick, running a fever, or who may have any COVID symptoms, to stay home. If any member/guest is uncomfortable attending a meeting or event, they should be encouraged to stay at home.

All sanitization steps, as directed by the CDC, the Governor's Directives, and any Edicts or Directives issued by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Delaware, shall continue. These sanitization steps shall be documented in a log book or spread sheet, that clearly shows what was sanitized, who sanitized it, and the date and time of sanitization. This documentation shall be maintained throughout this pandemic situation. All surfaces that are typically touched must be sanitized (ie: door knobs, chair arms, desks, gavels, columns, surfaces of doors where people may normally push on the door, tables, chairs, rest rooms, etc). Signs must be posted on how to stop the spread of COVID-19.

SPECIAL NOTE: You are again reminded that our Worshipful Masters and the various leaders of our Appendant & Concordant Bodies have the final say when deciding on any "Limited Masonic Activities", including Stated Communications; if you do not feel safe in holding a limited masonic activity due to this COVID-19 situation, and you feel that you need to cancel/postpone, our leadership has every right and obligation to do just that. Note: All Brethren and Membership (and the Grand Secretary's Office) must be notified with Due and Timely Notification.

Whatever path the lodge or any other masonic body chooses to follow, please be mindful of your members who are in the "Vulnerable Individuals" category, and remember that we should be mindful of the safety of our members and their families, as our first concern.

Private Functions booked/scheduled to be held in any Masonic Hall are to be handled by the individual Hall Company. Hall Companies are strongly encouraged to follow the most conservative guidelines available from leading global and local health authorities such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and abide by national, state, and local gathering restrictions, as directed by the President and/or the Governor of the State of Delaware.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

I again want to urge the Worshipful Masters of our lodges that have very limited seating capacity in their lodge “Blue Rooms”, to consider asking one of our larger lodges if you can use their lodge room for one or more of your meetings during these restricted times. This may allow you to have a meeting that you might not otherwise be able to have as a result of the 3 ft. Social Distancing restriction.

Again, please be reminded that this is a time for us to pay particular attention to our brethren who may be in need and who may require assistance. If you are worried about a fellow member or his family, please keep in contact with them via telephone, text, or email. Let us remember our masonic obligations to relieve the distressed, and to aid with the health and welfare of our fellow brothers. Please keep an eye on each other and be ready to exercise our masonic benevolence where and when we are able . . . and **“Be a Cut Above”**

Brethren, I know I have said this on many occasions, but I cannot stress enough, just how serious and harmful this Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been and will continue to be, if we don’t follow the guidelines and listen to good science. As Freemasons, in the First State, we must set the example and **“Be That Cut Above”** to do our part in continuing to help stop the spread of this awful virus.

In Conclusion, I hereby Order that this Directive is to be distributed to all of our members as expeditiously as possible, including the membership of our Appendant & Concordant Bodies. Additionally, this **Directive** shall be entered in full upon the Minutes of the Lodge, Appendant or Concordant Body thereof, during the next allowable Stated Communication of the Lodge, Appendant or Concordant Body.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of Delaware this 20th day of May, 2021 AD, 6021 AL.



M.: W.: Jeffrey D. Haass, Sr.
Grand Master

Attest:

M.: W.: Glenn F. Davis, Sr., PGM
Grand Secretary