

**Grand High Priest Instruction #2
2020-2021**

[This Instruction shall be read in its entirety as soon as possible but NOT LATER THAN THE NEXT STATED CONVOCATION of your Chapter.]

This instruction updates previous guidance on dealing with COVID related issues.

1. **Meetings:** The primary guidance in Executive Order #1 is still operative, since it always allowed an in-person Chapter meeting when possible. Even with the original order of the Virginia Governor limiting the capacity for private indoor gatherings to 10 persons, it was possible for very Chapter to try to have an in-person meeting. Now that the Governor has increased the capacity for private indoor gatherings from ten upward to fifty, it should be possible to have larger meetings and to consider beginning degree work.

2. **Degree Work:** My hope is to permit degree work starting May 1, 2021 and I have asked our Grand Lecturer, Rt. Ex. Randy Johnson, to put together a plan detailing how this can be done safely. There may need to be some accommodations in the ritual, but he will be working with his Committee to provide the required guidance. I understand that there may be a large number of candidates who want to get the degrees as quickly as possible, and can come back and see each degree conferred at a later meeting. Other candidates may prefer to take the time to do each degree separately. I intend to allow each District and Chapter the flexibility as to whether to have a Festival or do the degrees one at a time, or both.

3. **Continued Safety Precautions:** The increase in the allowable number of persons at a private indoor meeting does not affect the previously established health and safety protocols which must remain in place. These include, but are not limited to: cleaning the Lodge before and after use; the wearing of masks; social distancing; signage advising those with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 not to enter along with other public health warnings; seating marked and restricted; and, the availability of hand sanitizers throughout the Lodge building.

In addition, the Grand Master has decreed that sign in sheets are not permitted. The Secretary, or designee, should record attendance. Get well and sympathy cards should not be passed around the Lodge room for signature. The Secretary and Treasurer will define protocols for safely transmitting routine communications, including cash, checks, deposit slips, and other communications.

4. **Meals:** Thus far the Grand Master's phase 1 meal plan is in effect which provides that only prepackaged, boxed meals be provided. In addition, the safety protocols established in EO #2 remain in place.

Updated guidance will be issued as circumstances change.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia
at the City of Richmond this 29th day of March, A.D. 2021, A.I. 2551.



Attest:


Wayne H. Anderson
Grand Secretary


Edmund Cohen
Grand High Priest