

**Grand High Priest Instruction No. 4  
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.]**

Whereas, the Governor of Virginia has relaxed some of the Covid-19 health restrictions, now, therefore, by my authority as Grand High Priest, I now authorize the conferral of the Royal Arch degrees effective May 1, 2021 following the procedures set forth below.

1. The Royal Arch Chapter may now resume full opening and balloting ritual provided all wear masks and disposable gloves. (Forming the triangle & communicating the G.O.R.A.W.). No degrees or ritual is to be conferred while any on-line feature is activated (i.e., Zoom).
2. Degrees are to be conferred according to the authorized ritual with the following exceptions:
3. Maximize distance between companions whenever possible.
4. Use face masks as required at all times and face shields are encouraged.
5. Keep hand sanitizer available at all times.
6. Always use common sense.
7. Keep the candidates' experience in mind.
8. Explain to the candidates where differences are due to COVID protocol.
9. Give additional explanations when deemed necessary.
10. All companions on degree teams and candidates are to use disposable gloves (change frequently).
11. Avoid touching whenever possible. (i.e., when the deacon is conducting candidates, who are not hoodwinked).
12. When saluting the Holy Bible, the candidate is not to touch the Bible with his lips. (Simulate.)
13. Additional safety precautions may be used if deemed prudent to alleviate any health concerns if any participant is not comfortable with the level of safety measures.
14. **Specific to the Mark Master Degree:**

- a. Deacon does not pull-on candidates' lapels after reprimand.
- b. Use recording of singing rather than song cards if possible.
- c. RWM reads Parable from the East to avoid contact with the Holy Bible.

**15. Specific to the Royal Master Degree:**

- a. Craft maintains distance when presenting work.
- b. Human Cherubim - hands up (no touching when candidates enter).

**16. Specific to the Most Excellent Master Degree:**

- a. Craft assembled – maintain distance.
- b. Use recording of singing rather than song cards if possible.
- c. Simulate removing aprons – explain to the candidate.
- d. No kneeling during prayer.

**17. Specific to Royal Arch Degree:**

- a. No hoodwinks, no coveralls, no harness (Explain to the candidates).
- b. Candidates do not remove shoes.
- c. Arches - farther apart, use staffs (rods) instead of locking arms.
- d. Only give G.O.R.A.W. to active candidates, not to candidates on the sidelines.

If there are questions or concerns or a need for further clarification, please contact Rt. Ex. Randy Johnson at 757-650-9358 (cell or text) or by email ([darcoent@verizon.net](mailto:darcoent@verizon.net)).

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia at the City of Richmond this 26 day of April A.D. 2021.  
A.I. 2551.



Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne H. Anderson".

Wayne H. Anderson  
Grand Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edmund Cohen".

Edmund Cohen  
Grand High Priest