



The
Grand Lodge
of
Ancient Free and
Accepted Masons
of
Maryland
U.S.A.



Richard P. Naegele
Most Worshipful Grand Master

June 15, 2020

To: Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren
of Subordinate Lodge of the
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland

Brethren,

These past several months have been a challenge and strain on many Lodges and Members in Maryland. We have faced obstacles and situations never experienced in modern times. With this health emergency seeming to be winding down at the present, we will try to bring back some normalcy to our lives and organization.

The Governor of Maryland has recently issued a widening of Stage 2 reopening for our State. This will allow lodges and other masonic organizations to begin in-person meetings with limitations. As of Monday, June 29, 2020, all lodges in Maryland (provided the local jurisdiction has entered Stage 2 – currently Baltimore City, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties may not open) may begin meeting using the following guidelines:

1. See that the facility has been thoroughly cleaned prior to use. Not just vacuuming the carpets but disinfecting high use areas in the building.
2. Posting signs about Social Distancing, symptoms of Coronavirus, and use of PPE's and hand sanitizers.
3. Face masks are strongly recommended for all attendees, especially if seated less than 6 feet apart. This may be awkward, but safety for our older members must be taken into consideration.
4. Hand sanitizers and disposable face coverings must be available at every event held in the lodge building.
5. Gloves must always be worn by all participants throughout all portions of work.
6. A maximum of 50% capacity for the normal set-up of the room must be followed. This does not include lodge officers in separate stations around the room. (example: Lodge has 50 seats – maximum allowed 25 plus officers)
7. Seating should be arranged to best observe 6-foot spacing requirements.
8. For degree work, no more than one (1) candidate/Brother may be entered, passed, or raised at a time. This is so there is only one person at the altar at a time. The JW is to stand when delivering the obligation.
9. When purging the room at the beginning of a meeting, avoid physical contact and beware of distancing.

10. Only one person may be in physical contact with a candidate. This means the SS and SD will not be escorting them. Grip work and such will be done by the conductor.
11. The conductor will escort the candidate to the altar. Senior Warden will only recite ritual part.
12. Three bases must always wear gloves and face masks.
13. The candidate or Brother being seated in a chair would be preferred instead of using the Canvas, but not required.
14. During raising, ALL must wear face masks and gloves. WM should be mindful of space when communicating WORD.

Lodges are encouraged to meet to do necessary work. At the same time, those members who are most vulnerable to the Coronavirus should refrain from attending in closed spaces with larger crowds. Lodges should always take precautions and be mindful that all actions are for the safety of the members.

Fraternally,



Richard P. Naegele
Grand Master