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## GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MARYLAND

June 17, 2020

Companions,

As you may have already heard, the RWGM of Maryland has issued an edict allowing for Lodges in Maryland to once again hold in person meetings starting June 29, 2020. With that in mind, I am issuing the following EDICT.

**Provided that:** The area in which the Chapter meets has entered into Stage 2 of the Governor's plan for reopening the State, **and under the MWGM's guidelines**, Chapters may schedule meetings during the remaining summer. Both the Grand High Priest, and the Grand Secretary, must be notified prior to the meeting. A special one time meeting to accomplished unfinished business is permitted, provided timely notification is made to all members.

**A guide for how the degrees are permitted to be performed during Covid-19 restrictions will be forthcoming in the following week.**

The following guidelines, issued by the MWGM, must be followed. And of course, you will need to coordinate with the Holding Corporation and/or the Worshipful Master of the corresponding Lodge building.

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 seem 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 be worn by all participants throughout all portions of work.

6. A maximum of 50% capacity for the normal setup of the room must be followed. This does not include Chapter officers in separate stations around the room.(example, room holds 100, you may have 50 members, plus the officers) In Royal Arch degree, King and Scribe should seat themselves separate from the High Priest.
7. Seating should be arranged to best observe 6-foot spacing requirements.
8. When purging the room prior to the meeting, avoid physical contact and be aware of distancing.

**Again, A guide for how the degrees are permitted to be performed during Covid-19 restrictions will be forthcoming in the following week.**

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

Please stay safe, and may your family and loved ones be well.

**Fraternally,  
Bruce G. Colburn  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**