

Grand Commandery Of Maryland
Order #7
Guidelines for return to Conclaves and Orders
As of May 23rd, 2021

As of May 24th, 2021 you are hereby authorized to confer the Red Cross, Malta, and Order of the Temple as well as the 10-man opening and to have practices for the Orders, but only when following the guidelines below.

All Maryland State requirements are to be followed.

Attendance:

It is the responsibility of each Commandery's Recorder to determine the State of Maryland maximum attendance for his own Commandery meeting room. You would look up the state guidelines that exist at the time of the conclave or conferral for the **percentage** of capacity allowed. The maximum would be calculated based on the fire code capacity of the room. If your conclave room has a fire code capacity of 100 people and the state covid maximum is 50%, then your maximum attendance would be 50 people.

Miscellaneous

All attendees are required to wear masks until the state declares they are not necessary for indoor meetings.

No attendees shall be allowed into the conclave if they have any Covid-19 symptoms.

Hand Sanitizer must be available and should be used when entering the location.

Cleaning of the touch points should follow the state guidelines (in most cases this would be the responsibility of the holding company).

Cotton Gloves must be worn if there is to be any physical interaction between individuals (such as in conferring the orders or the Ten Man opening). All participants in the Ten Man opening and the Orders must wear gloves even if an individual will not be touching another individual. Physical contact must be avoided unless it is a necessary part of the order or ten man opening.

The conclave room should be set up for 3 feet social distancing. This means you can use the center of the room for seating if necessary. This requirement may be changed by the state so it will be the recorders responsibility to stay updated on the state regulations.

When performing the 5th Libation, a separate cup must be used for each person receiving the wine. Also, the Commander must not share his cup with the candidate when performing this part of the ritual.

It is the responsibility of the recorder of each commandery to remain up-to-date on local and state guidelines and to follow those guidelines including the above guidelines of the Grand Commandery of Maryland.

Hereby ordered on this 22nd day of May 2021 by

Charles E. Warns II
Right Eminent Grand Commander of Maryland Knights Templar