

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

KEITH W. NEWTON
GRAND MASTER



144 ORCHARD ROAD
WILMINGTON, OHIO 45177
PHONE (937) 725-0851
E-MAIL: GM@Freemason.com

Edict 2020-10

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Health has introduced the Ohio Public Health Advisory System using seven data indicators in which to identify the risk level for each county and a corresponding color code to represent that risk level. The system is designed to supplement existing statewide orders. Four color coded levels provide Ohioans with guidance as to the current exposure and spread rate as measured and reported in each county, and,

WHEREAS, The Indicator Overview and Risk Level Guidance documents are available at the following web site: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/>. As you follow the Laws of our state and community, use this Advisory System to determine the risk level in your county. It is updated weekly by the Ohio Department of Health each Thursday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH W. NEWTON, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, hereby decree that:

Lodges holding allegiance under the Grand Lodge of Ohio of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio are permitted to continue all activities of the lodge if their county rating is **Level 1 or 2, (Yellow, Orange)**. Follow the guidance recommendations for each level.

If the county in which the Lodge resides escalates to **Level 3 (Red)**, all in-person masonic activities can continue subject to the discretion of the Master of the Lodge. These activities include but not limited to Stated Meetings, Annual Inspections, Ceremonies, Grand Master Receptions, Grand Master Class events and Special meetings.

All in-person masonic activities are to be cancelled if the county in which your Lodge resides escalates to **Level 4 (Purple)**. These activities include but not limited to Stated Meetings, Annual Inspections, Ceremonies, Grand Master Receptions, Grand Master Class events and Special meetings.

Lodges with meetings or events cancelled by the Worshipful Master due to a county rating of **Level 4 (Purple) or Level 3 (Red)** can resume Virtual Stated meetings during that period. Reference the Ohio Grand Lodge Virtual Meeting guidelines:

- A password protected secure tool for members to utilize for accessing a virtual Lodge Stated meeting (e.g. Zoom, GoToMeeting, WebEx, etc).

- An email to the lodge members sent from our Grand View membership program and posted on the lodges Grand View dashboard.
- The Worshipful Master or Warden in charge will proclaim the meeting open: “This Stated Meeting is symbolically opened in the Entered Apprentice Degree.”
- Conduct business of the lodge.
- Fellowship with our brethren.
- Education programs.
- The Worshipful Master or Warden in charge will proclaim the meeting closed: “This Stated Meeting is symbolically closed in the Entered Apprentice Degree.”

Note: Ritual work of any type or nature, candidate examinations, and candidate balloting are not permitted.

Reminder of the expectations for members of the Grand Lodge of Ohio:

- ❖ DO NOT feel obligated to attend lodge, or any event, until YOU are comfortable doing so.
- ❖ If you have a temperature or do not feel well, please stay home.
- ❖ Respect each other’s decision pertaining to personal contact whether it be a handshake, elbow bump, fist bump or hug, brotherly love should always prevail.

I FURTHER DIRECT this Edict is required to be read and entered upon the minutes at the next Stated Meeting of each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, and all Lodges should govern themselves accordingly. This Edict is to be in effect from this date until midnight on October 23, 2020 unless amended or rescinded prior.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Master of Masons in Ohio in the city of Springfield, Ohio, this sixteenth day of July, A.D. 2020 A.L. 6020.

Fraternally,



Keith W. Newton
Grand Master



Be diligent in keeping each other safe. Lead by example in your communities and wear a mask. I will be wearing mine.

Live Simply...Love Generously...Care Deeply...Speak Kindly.