



June 26th, 2020

To All Kansas Masons,

Upon entering into our craft, we agreed to keep within our minds and hearts the words and the wisdom of our Masonic forefathers and follow our rules. Our obligations, lectures, and charges are our first Masonic “light”. We find that the responsibility to live and act as Masons within our Masonic family rests solely with us as individuals. It is our personal responsibility to learn, to improve ourselves, and to build on our character. It is also our responsibility as leaders to act in the best interests of our communities.

In the first degree, we are charged with three great duties, To God, Our Neighbors, and Ourselves. During these times of health crisis and social unrest, we must remember those duties.

To God, we asked that he protect us, our families, and our Brothers. We know that God gives us our faith, wisdom, and power to make our own decisions. Our transitory existence on earth is short. It is even shorter if we ignore the obstacles that he sets in our path. Our first order of business is always to pray that he guides us to make smart and thoughtful decisions.

To our neighbors, we follow the golden rule. We ensure that our actions do not jeopardize the health and welfare of our friends in our communities.

To ourselves, we are true to our characters. We are true to our government and patiently submitted to legal authority. We may not agree with every decision of our government officials make, but we hope that our public servants have our best interests at heart.

Your Grand Lodge leadership has followed these basic Masonic principles and duties when decisions were made to cancel or postpone events and temporarily close our Lodges. We invoked the blessings of deity and determined the best path was to be responsible and be respectful in our communities. We listened to legal authorities and followed the rules and guidelines of our federal, state, and local governments. All these actions have been effective so far, but we must remain committed to our charges.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the Covid-19 cases in some counties in Kansas. Our Governor and our state KDHE health experts have determined that our state is not ready to move into the recommended final phase of the “Ad Astra” plan, which are only recommendations, until July 6th at the earliest. Local county governments will retain the ability to impose additional restrictions. Since the state has deferred to county officials much of the authority to impose restrictions, each Lodge may be under different county restrictions.

Please visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/> to monitor state and local “up-to-date” guidelines and restrictions.

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- ❖ Please consider the following recommendations when resuming Lodge Meetings:
 - 1) Even though, according to edict, every Kansas Lodge officially reopens on July 1st, each Lodge must follow their local health guidelines when doing so. Remember that when and where your Lodge holds its Stated Communications is dictated by your Lodge bylaws and by the Grand Lodge bylaws. The Grand Master must approve any deviation from those bylaws.
 - 2) Masks & gloves should be made available for members to wear in Lodge, and especially in areas of the Lodge where social/ physical distancing is difficult.
 - 3) Consider restricting any food service at Lodge.
 - 4) Please have an ample supply of hand sanitizer available for use by all Brothers before entering a Lodge. Lodges should supply hand-sanitizer at each Lodge room entrance.
 - 5) No Kansas Lodges are being required to take temperatures upon entering the Lodge, but it would be a good idea if a touchless thermometer is available.
 - 6) We would suggest that members print their names in the Tyler's book along with a contact phone number in case of a positive test case.
 - 7) Brothers with health concerns who are uncomfortable attending Lodge should not be disregarded. Let them know that their health concerns are valid and that their safety is paramount.
 - 8) It would be helpful to continue the use of frequent emails and greater social media engagement to stay connected with our "at-risk" Brothers.

- ❖ Duties of the Lodges and the Brothers.
 - 1) The Master of the Lodge should make it clear to Lodge members that by attending Lodge, they need to be forthcoming if they do test positive for the virus after sitting in Lodge.
 - a) The Master should make this announcement at the start and end of each meeting.
 - b) Reassure the Brothers that every effort will be made to maintain a man's privacy should he test positive.



- ❖ What to do if your Lodge is notified that a Brother, who was in attendance at a meeting, shows symptoms of Covid19 or tests positive for the virus.
 - 1) Contact your local health department for guidance.
 - 2) Notify all the members who were in attendance at that meeting as soon as possible. Advise those members to begin self-quarantining, contact their physician, and get tested if testing is available in their area.
 - 3) The Grand Lodge of Kansas should be notified of the positive test so that we are aware of a potential outbreak. No one wants to hear about his Lodges on the news.
 - 4) The affected Lodge should be cleaned and sanitized as quickly as possible to prevent any further spread of the virus.

Finally, we know that Freemasonry is meant to be experienced socially. Our Masonic mentoring and teaching are meant to be person to person. Our rituals are built on a foundation of personal contact. We will not change our rituals. We will not alter our modes of recognition. We would normally welcome our Brothers into our Lodges with a handshake, but these natural Masonic impulses and actions should give us pause to think about how we may be risking the health of our Brothers and their families. We must not let down our guard. We must stay true to our Masonic principles, our obligations, and our charges. Once the risk to ourselves and our most vulnerable members has abated, a determination will be made to open up all our Masonic business and offer a full Masonic experience to our candidates and our Brothers in waiting.

Please know that we will get back to normal. We will have normal Masonic intercourse. We will emerge from this crisis healthy and without second thoughts or regrets. We will be stronger knowing that we adhered to our most basic Masonic ideals and principles.

Thanks for your patience, support, and understanding.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

M.:W.: Anthony W. Borum
Grand Master, 2020-2021