

Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

In April 2020, I released a revision to Edict No .1, suspending all Masonic activities until further notice. I also released a revision to Edict No. 1 in April 2020 extending the suspension of Masonic activities until further notice. Also, in April 2020, I released Edict No.2 which allowed stated meetings via a digital platform. This was followed by a revision to Edict No.2 which enabled the lodges to conduct secret ballots via Adoodle.org. Even though none of us were happy with these necessary restrictions, it was an action necessary, given the Government restrictions, and looking out for the health and well being of the members of the American Canadian Grand Lodge (ACGL).

“Safety first” and the health and well being of all members and families of the American Canadian Grand Lodge (ACGL) remains our number one priority, this will never change! The situation concerning COVID-19 has changed; the governmental restrictions have been loosened. We still face challenges with local restrictions differing by region, and that the American Canadian Grand jurisdiction covers different countries, it is not a one size fit all, what might work in Germany might not work in another countries. Lodge Masters must be aware of what those restrictions are in their region, or country concerning COVID-19 are, and take all efforts necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its members. The German Government having eased current restrictions, I hereby rescind Edict No.1 and the revision to Edict No. 1 and declare that all ACGL Lodges may reopen on 01. September 2020.

Lodges under the jurisdiction of the American Canadian Grand Lodge must follow the below guidelines, which are **mandatory**. Lodges must also continue to follow local restrictions placed on meetings by the Local, Regional and Federal Government.

1. Lodges of the ACGL are allowed to be open as of 01.September 2020, provided that local and federal law in their specific region permits.
2. If this might not be possible for all lodges to open, due to local restrictions, lodge room square footage or age group composition of its members. Lodge(s) may coordinate with other ACGL lodges to use their lodge room or a virtual room (Skype, WebEx, MS Teams, Zoom). This opportunity is valid from 01.September until 31.December 2020 and requires the Grand Masters dispensation.
3. When a lodge meeting is held, the Worshipful Master is accountable for:
 - 3.1. Regional and Grand Lodge guidelines are followed
 - 3.2. Detailed documentation of all brothers attending the meeting is a must (full name, address, phone numbers, email), place/date/time of meeting
 - 3.3. Facemasks will be worn at all times in all rooms of the lodge house. The Worshipful Master may decide to loosen this restriction when brothers are seated in the temple or festive board where social distancing of 1.5meters (or more) can be maintained. Removing of facemasks must be recorded in the minutes.
 - 3.4. Disinfectant must be used at entrance, bathrooms, kitchen and collation room.
 - 3.5. Social distancing must be followed in all gathering areas and seating arrangements. No hugging, handshaking, and sneezing must be done into the elbow, ... use general awareness and common sense.

3.6. Lodge rooms should be sufficiently ventilated if possible

3.7. Brothers with health issues or symptoms related to COVID-19 or similar symptoms will **NOT** attend lodge

4. Only members of the lodge at the **stated** meetings with the exception of the DDGM of the district or a member of the Elected Grand Line.
5. Only Closed Installations will be conducted with no visitors or guests from other jurisdictions
6. No guest or visitors from other jurisdictions can attend degree work, only members of the ACGL Lodges.
7. During the ongoing pandemic only the ACGL modified opening, closing, degree work sheet (COVID-19, Degree Work Sheet) and installation ritual will be used as amended.

If you have any questions, please contact the Grand Secretary.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Daniel Jap Lim,

Grand Master