

# The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

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Grand Master 2020-2021  
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## Directive

July 8, 2020

Governor John Bel Edwards announced today, July 8, 2020, that the State of Louisiana will continue to operate at Phase II. It was also noted that although there is no mandate statewide on the use of masks, it is highly encouraged to do so, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, if your Lodge's local government has mandated that masks are mandatory, you must abide by those mandates in the Lodge.

**Therefore, I am issuing the following directive to allow our constituent lodges to continue activities, with restrictions as follows:**

- Commencing June 30, 2020, Lodges may hold Stated Meetings for the purpose of conducting regular business appropriate to a stated meeting, including degree conferrals.
- Lodges may hold Special (called) Communications only for the purpose of examining a candidate - if applicable - and conferring a degree.
- Special Communications involving the public's attendance are prohibited.
- Meals will be allowed with the following guidelines:
  - Buffet style service is discouraged and a designated server(s) is recommended. Servers will use gloves and masks for food and beverage service. Individually wrapped or boxed dinners are preferred.
- Strict social distancing rules as established in Governor Edwards' "Open Safely" must be followed, including the following:
  1. All Masons will maintain social distancing, when practicable.
  2. **Masks are required for all attendees in Lodge, where the local government has mandated it, and highly encouraged in all other areas of the State.**
  3. Lodges are encouraged to have hand sanitizer available in the Lodge building.
  4. Most importantly, all Louisiana Masons are strongly encouraged NOT to attend Lodge if they have any signs of illness or do not feel comfortable, at the present time, with attending. Masons must self-screen for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 before attending any Lodge meeting. Those individuals considered to be "at-risk", including those who are 65 or older, and especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; weakened immune system or other risk factors are encouraged not to attend Lodge. You are the sole decision-maker as to whether you should attend Lodge. There is nothing more important at this time than the continued well-being of our Louisiana Masons.

**This directive will allow our District Lodges to resume meeting, with restrictions as follows:**

- Districts Lodges are restricted to 50 or less members in attendance, unless the Lodge hall can accommodate additional members based upon available seating using social distancing as the rule.
- Meals will be allowed with the aforementioned guidelines
- **Masks are required for all attendees in Lodge, where the local government has mandated it, and highly encouraged in all other areas of the State.**
- Strict social distancing rules, as established in Governor Edwards' "Open Safely", must be followed, as previously detailed above.

Phase 2 is effective until July 24, 2020 and the Governor will issue further instructions regarding lifting additional restrictions and moving to Phase 3. I will issue future Directives when it is deemed both safe and prudent to do so while, at the same time, adhering to the mandates of the State of Louisiana.

Fraternally,

James E. Steen  
Grand Master

*"Charity, Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love"*

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