

# The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

## FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

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**Grand Master, 2020-2021**  
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Organized 1812

### Directive

July 13, 2020

On July 11, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards announced modifications to the Phase Two plan that we have been operating under. Those changes, which take effect today, July 13, 2020 are as follows:

- Everyone ages 8 and older **must wear a mask or face covering** outside of their home.
- All bars will be closed unless providing curbside pickup.
- Indoor social gatherings are limited to 50 people.

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

- Commencing July 13, 2020, Lodges may hold Stated Meetings for the purpose of conducting regular business appropriate to a stated meeting, including degree conferrals, however, **all attendees must wear an appropriate mask or face covering.**
- Lodges may hold Special (called) Communications only for the purpose of examining a candidate - if applicable - and conferring degrees.
- Special Communications involving the public's attendance remain prohibited.
- **District Lodges will again be prohibited from meeting**, as the maximum 50 person occupancy restriction cannot be followed in all Districts, in addition the requirement of masks presents a significant burden as well as an impediment to proper communication.
- Meals will continue to be allowed at Lodge meetings with the following guideline:
  - Buffet style service is discouraged and a designated server(s) is recommended. Servers must use gloves and masks for food and beverage service.
- Strict social distancing rules as established in Governor Edwards' "Open Safely" will be followed, including the following:
  1. All Masons will maintain social distancing, when practicable.
  2. **Masons are now required, to wear face masks at Lodge meetings.**
  3. Lodges are encouraged to have hand sanitizer readily 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.

Phase 2, including these new requirements is effective until July 24, 2020. We expect the Governor will issue further instructions on or before July 24<sup>th</sup> regarding possible modifications based on the rate of new cases and other factors relative to the spread of COVID-19. 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. "Jimmie" Steen  
Grand Master

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

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