

# The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS



**M. W. James E. "Jimmie" Steen**  
**Grand Master, 2020-2021**  
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Organized 1812

## Directive

**September 16, 2020**

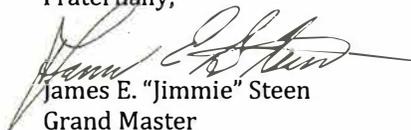
Due to Phase III guidelines issued by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards on September 11, 2020, **a limit of the lesser of 250 or 50% capacity of a facility** is in place to maintain social distancing. After review, we have determined that several of the District Lodges could meet and stay within these guidelines. Additionally, we determined that constituent Lodges could resume open meetings within these same guidelines.

Therefore, I am issuing the following directive to **allow** our District Lodges to meet, and **allow** constituent Lodges to resume open meetings, with restrictions as follows:

- Limit the number of members to **50% capacity of the Lodge**
- 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.
- Strict social distancing rules, as established in Governor Edwards' "Open Safely", will be followed, including the following:  
All Masons will maintain social distancing:
  1. Masons are strongly urged, but are not required, to wear face masks.
  2. Lodges are encouraged to have hand sanitizer available in the Lodge building.
  3. Temperature checks are highly recommended before each meeting.
  4. Most importantly, all Louisiana Masons are strongly encouraged NOT to attend Lodge Meetings 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.

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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