



Grand Chapter

Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey

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March 29, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

After much consideration and discussion, along with the approval of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, we are allowing Chapters to resume meeting as of May 1, 2021. In opening **we must obey** the NJ State guidelines:

Indoor Gatherings

Face coverings are required [in indoor public spaces](#) and in outdoor public spaces when social distancing is difficult to maintain. **General indoor gatherings** must be limited to 25 people. All attendees at indoor gatherings must wear face coverings and stay six feet apart. *Last Updated: 03/18/2021*

https://covid19.nj.gov/search.html?utm_campaign=20201024_nwsltr_b&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&query=can+organizations+reopen+and+meet+again%3F

Grand Chapter is requiring that for Chapters to be able to hold meetings, the members that are attending and participating **must** adhere to the following:

1. Read, answer the attached questionnaire, and then sign the waver before the meeting starts. *(Forms are to be in the secretary's possession before the meeting can start. She will maintain copies of them on file. The Worthy Matron should maintain copies as well.)*
2. Wear a facial mask that *always* covers both the mouth and nose. **No exceptions.** *If there is a medical reason one cannot wear a mask, it must be approved beforehand by the MWGM through the WDD.*
3. Wear white gloves, including the Worthy Patron *(Avoid using lace or open crochet gloves. Gloves are to be worn for your protection)*
4. Maintain social distancing by standing and sitting 6 feet or more apart. No handshakes, hugs or touching.
5. There is to be no singing as part of the meeting.
6. Presentations of dignitaries or visiting guests are to be made from the sidelines.
7. The number 25 people is 25 people in the building and *not per room*. This must be adhered to, as per the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

If any of these requirements are not complied with, the member(s) cannot attend or participate and will be required to leave.

We are giving a **permission granted** for chapters to elect and install officers on the same night.

We are giving a **permission granted** to install elected officers only and to declare all appointed officers installed.

We are giving a **permission granted** for chapters to meet with less than quorum but at least a minimum of five in attendance for it to be considered a legal meeting.

We are giving a **permission granted** allowing officers to sit in places other than their assigned stations to maintain social distancing.

These permissions granted will remain in effect until Sister Daria and Brother Bruce take office.

While refreshments are permissible, social distancing must remain in effect. The decision to serve refreshments is a chapter-by-chapter decision.

The continued health and safety of our membership remains our priority. Should you have any questions, please contact your Worthy District Deputy, who has been given more detailed instructions from the Most Worthy Grand Matron.

We remind all of you to follow the recommendations to stay safe by practicing good hygiene, social distancing, and self-quarantining.

It is extremely important that you share this information with the members of your chapter. It is vital that they are kept informed of the determinations made by our Elected Line and the direction our Order is heading in during these unsettling times. In the meantime, we must **ASK** God for guidance and **BELIEVE** that He will send His Blessings for us to **RECEIVE**.

Fraternally,



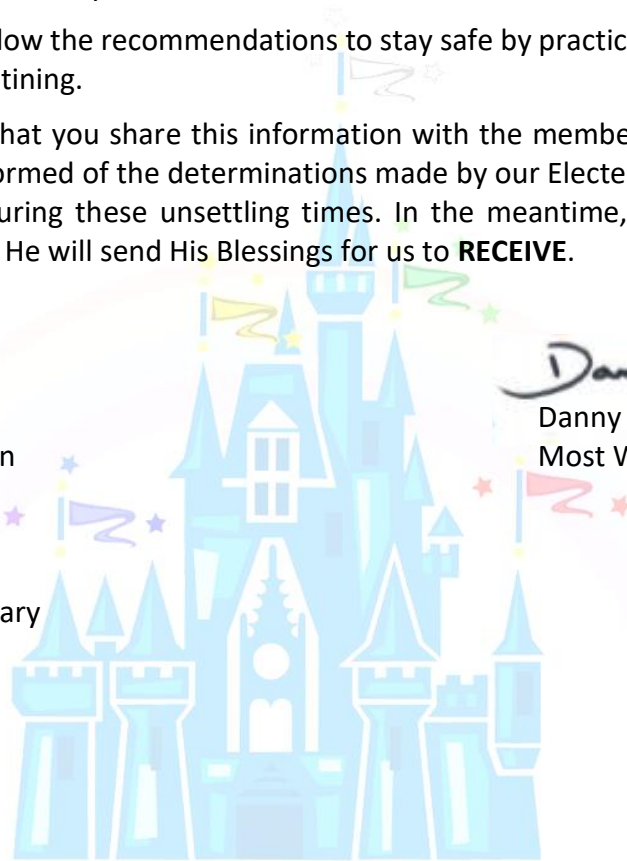
Norma J. Hines
Most Worthy Grand Matron



Danny L. Copper
Most Worthy Grand Patron

Attest:

Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM
Right Worthy Grand Secretary



Safety Tips For Gatherings from the NJ Website

To avoid putting your loved ones at risk as COVID-19 cases remain high, the NJ Department of Health has offered safety tips for in-person gatherings:

- [Wear a mask](#), wash your hands, practice social distancing, and stay home if you are sick.
- Given the current surge in COVID-19 cases, only gather indoors with immediate household members if possible. Indoor gatherings are particularly dangerous places for the virus to spread. Host outdoor activities rather than indoor activities as much as possible.
- If you do host indoors, increase ventilation by opening windows and doors or by placing central air and heating on continuous circulation.
- The smaller the gathering is, the less likely it is that someone is infected and put loved ones at risk.
- Require guests to wear masks when not eating, whether indoors or outdoors.
- Plan beforehand and ask guests to avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.
- Guests should avoid direct contact, including handshakes and hugs, with others outside their household.
- Make hand sanitizer available for guests.
- Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings.
- When hosting activities, do so with people only from your local area as much as possible. Activities with attendees traveling from different locations increase the risk of infection and spread, especially if they are coming from or traveling to a location with higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread.
- Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to the virus in the last 14 days, are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or recently travelled [to an area or a state with high COVID-19 infection rates](#).
- Use single-use hand towels or paper towels for drying hands so guests do not share a towel.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible.
- Consider keeping a list of guests who attended for potential future contact tracing needs. If you are called by a contact tracer, it is critical that you answer the call to protect us all. Your help is the key to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and saving lives.

Download the [COVID Alert NJ App](#). The app is New Jersey's free and secure mobile app that anonymously alerts users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. COVID Alert NJ uses Bluetooth proximity technology, never records any identifying data, and all users will remain anonymous. Download the app from the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#)