



Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota

Grand Master's Edict Regarding CORONAVIRUS

In compliance with the State of Emergency declared both federally, in South Dakota and the latest guidance directed by the President and CDC last evening of not more than 10 individuals meeting as a group, we must take measures to contain the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Acting under my authority as Grand Master of Masons in South Dakota, I do hereby order all Lodge activities, including all Regular and Special Communications of subordinate Lodges, ritual practices, fundraisers, and social events be cancelled or postponed until further notice. Your Lodge leadership should consider using electronic means for meetings, discussion of bills and authorizing your treasurers to stay current on Lodge expenses. Think of additional ways to communicate if this situation continues for an extended period of time.

This edict will be reviewed regularly. If the State of Emergency is lifted or recommendations of State or Federal change, this edict will be revisited and updated as required. I am confident this situation will resolve itself over time and I would ask that you keep in touch with those that are elderly and anyone with health issues placing them at higher risk of exposure. Let people know that you are there for them and check on them regularly.

The President's guidance released last night to push for **15 Days To Slow The Spread**, which recommends following directions of your State and Local Authorities. Also, if you or anyone in your family feels sick, **STAY HOME**. If someone in your household has tested positive for the Coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. If you are an older person or have a serious underlying health condition, stay home and away from people. Utilize the CDC website for the latest guidelines at [CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

Social distancing and practicing good hygiene will greatly improve your chance of avoiding this deadly virus. Minimize travel, meetings, group settings, and visits to known infected areas will all help in curbing this pandemic. Many of the actions we normally accomplish can be done through electronic means such as communicating with others, conducting meetings, checking on friends and family and coordinating resources such as phone in orders or email orders.

We understand that this is early stages of this virus and the spread of illness. Be cognizant of your surroundings and practice the guidelines as laid out by the CDC to be safe and keep your loved ones safe as well. As circumstances dictate, you will receive notice as soon as changes in these policies are required.

I wish all Masons and their families' health and safety during this wearisome time.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold D. Ireland".

Harold D. Ireland

Grand Master of Masons

"We're the Masons"

Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota

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