



Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska

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Fraternal greetings Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, and Brethren,

The Grand Lodge Office and I have received a number of concerns and questions regarding the Coronavirus (COVID19) and what advice and/or recommendations the Grand Lodge has for lodges.

In response to inquiries, the Grand Lodge encourages the practice of healthy hygiene routines and common sense to prevent the spread of COVID19 by hand washing, fist or elbow bumping vice shaking hands, and avoiding close social contact. More specifically, from a health aspect, it is recommended that the below advice from the CDC be adhered to:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (The virus is thought to be spread within about 6 feet between people who have tested positive)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

In addition to CDC guidance, if brethren feel uncomfortable with a group gathering, are not feeling well, are vulnerable due to underlying issues, encourage them to stay home. With respect to lodge regular and special communications or fundraisers, the decision to cancel or collecting the pass and grip is up to the individual lodge.

In closing, I request that lodges use common sense, make fact-based decisions concerning meetings and special events, and exercise patience while the world navigates its way through the COVID19 issue. I encourage each of us to look out for our brothers, their families, and communities.

Please feel free to contact either the Grand Lodge or me if you have any questions concerning COVID19 with respect to Grand Lodge activities.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master