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GRAND MASTER 2019-2020
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FROM THE GRAND EAST

EDICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL LODGES - COVID-19 HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT

May 21, 2020

Dear Brethren All,

Effective May 30th, 2020, Oregon Masonic Lodges will be allowed to resume Stated Communications, Degree work and other Masonic events, with the following restrictions, contained in the phased reopening announced by Governor Brown:

1. Lodges shall meet according to their By-Laws, limited to no more than 25 people at any single gathering
2. All members shall wear a mask at all times while in Lodge, including when entering or departing a Lodge building
3. Social distancing will be observed before, during and after Lodge meetings. Additionally, while it is to be avoided during these times, should personal contact be necessary, the use of hand sanitizer will be required before and after contact
4. It is recommended that members also wear gloves (vinyl or latex only); in the absence of gloves, and in general, hand sanitizer shall be used regularly to prevent the spread of any disease
5. If you are over 60 years old and decide to attend a Lodge meeting you must know that you increase your risk of contracting COVID-19. Should you attend Lodge, you must wear a mask, gloves and practice social distancing
6. Members are encouraged to follow proper sanitation measures to avoid spreading or coming into contact with active viruses
7. Members who have COVID-19 symptoms themselves or in their household, or who are running a fever, are advised to stay home and not attend any Lodge meetings or Masonic events.

This order is limited to counties which have been approved by the Governor to reopen in Phase 1 of the Phased Reopening Prerequisites of Oregon issued by the Governor. At the time of this writing the following counties do not have approved plans: Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Marion. Until these counties have approved plans, Lodges in those jurisdictions may not meet. If counties have approved plans by the time this order is issued, Lodges may reopen as specified above.

As Freemasons, we desire to maintain our dignity and to protect our health in reopening our Lodges. We have been successful in Oregon by isolating ourselves to keep the cases low. Today we have 3,726 cases in Oregon and 140 deaths attributed to COVID-19. Because of the great number of unknown facts about this disease, we must be careful to protect ourselves, our families and our community.

Each of us has to decide how we are going to continue to take precautions to prevent becoming infected. Because I am in a vulnerable group, and want to see my two beautiful granddaughters grow up, and because I don't want to endure the debilitating pain and suffering we have all seen in impacted areas, I choose to be careful about my exposure moving forward. I hope you will too.

This order will remain in effect until changed or replaced by the Grand Master.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Eggers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

MWB Ronald J. Eggers, Grand Master
The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon

RJE:md

CC: Lodge Secretary