

# THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS



**Kenneth A. Clay, Jr.**  
**GRAND MASTER**

30 Mont Vernon Street  
PO Box 486  
Milford, NH 03055-0486  
mwgm@nhgrandlodge.org

March 16, 2020

## EDICT

Brethren, we live in challenging times and many of us have never seen the necessary actions taken by our Government in response to the COVID-19 Virus. The President of the United States of America has declared a National Emergency and the Governor of New Hampshire has declared a State of Emergency. Their actions are taken to help protect the citizens of our country and state.

I have considered at length the actions that should be taken to help protect the members and families of our Masonic Fraternity in this Grand Jurisdiction. The health and safety of my Brethren and their families is of the highest priority. In times of emergency, these concerns may be better addressed at the local level. I embrace the autonomy of our Fraternity and the importance of empowering our Masonic leaders.

Given these considerations and with the authority granted unto me by the Grand Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of New Hampshire, I therefore, as Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, F&AM hereby issue the following EDICT:

A duly elected and installed Worshipful Master of any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may take the following action regarding the Stated Communications of his Blue Lodge.

Any regular Stated Communication of a Lodge may be cancelled by the Worshipful Master of that Lodge for reasons specific to the COVID-19 Virus.

Such cancellation is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The Worshipful Master **SHALL** discuss the proposed cancellation with officers of his Lodge before making this decision.
- 2) The Worshipful Master **SHALL** provide prior Notice of this cancellation to the Grand Master, Grand Secretary and District Deputy Grand Master of the respective District. This Notice shall include the scheduled date of the impacted Stated Communication, and the associated rationale for his decision. Electronic communication is acceptable.

- 3) All members of such Lodge **SHALL** receive Notice by the Secretary of such cancellation at least 24-hours in advance of the Stated Communication by email, mail, phone or other means of private communication.
- 4) Notice **SHALL** be posted on the outer door of the Lodge building and include contact information for the Lodge Worshipful Master and Secretary.
- 5) The Notice of the Stated Communication cancellation **SHALL** be documented in the minutes of the next convened Stated Communication of the Lodge by the Lodge Secretary.
- 6) This Cancellation of the Stated Communication **SHALL** allow the Worshipful Master to direct the Secretary and Treasurer to pay all necessary bills of the Lodge until the next Stated Communication is held. At the next regular Stated Communication of the Lodge a complete accounting of these bills will be presented to the Lodge.
- 7) This Stated Communication cancellation **WILL NOT** require the Worshipful Master to choose an alternative date for that Stated Communication.
- 8) There will be **NO** blanket cancellation for Stated Communications allowed; rather each Stated Communication will be addressed individually in the above described format.

The situation facing this Grand Jurisdiction regarding the COVID-19 Virus is fluid in nature and we all need to be able to make accommodations to protect our members. This Edict is being issued in the best interests of the Craft.

This EDICT will remain in effect until RESCINDED by me.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth A. Clay, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular border.

Kenneth A. Clay Jr.

Grand Master

# THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS



**KENNETH A. CLAY, JR.**  
**GRAND MASTER**

30 Mont Vernon Street  
PO Box 486  
Milford, NH 03055-0486  
MWGM@nhgrandlodge.org

March 11, 2020

Brethren,

I have been watching closely the public response to the COVID-19 outbreak. At this time, functions related to the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire remain as previously scheduled. However, being concerned for the health and welfare of the members of our Fraternity, I am providing the following guidance when attending any of our meetings and functions:

- If you are sick please stay home.
- If you are feeling sick or think you are coming down with something please stay home.
- Avoid handshakes, hugs, or physical contact. Elbow bumps are OK!
- If you use personal hand sanitizer, please bring your own to use as the Lodge may not have enough supply available.
- Wash your hands often as needed.
- Clean Lodge common areas, especially after meetings.
- If you are concerned about attending events that could expose you to the virus, please feel comfortable in making the decision to not attend.

I am closely watching for any public notices from the State of New Hampshire and will provide updated guidance as warranted.

As always take due notice and govern yourself accordingly.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Kenneth A. Clay Jr.  
Grand Master