

# THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Kenneth A. Clay, Jr.  
GRAND MASTER

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March 27, 2020

TO: All NH Master Masons

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance on Meetings and Events

Brethren,

In response to the continuing circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 crisis, and out of an abundance of caution and concern for the health and safety of our Masonic family, I offer the following updated guidance.

On Thursday, March 26, 2020 the Governor of the State of New Hampshire issued a “Stay at Home” order for all non-essential workers through May 4, 2020. This applies to Masonic Lodges and Building Associations within our Grand Jurisdiction. To help ensure that our Grand Jurisdiction, relevant to Masonic activity, complies with this order:

- Worshipful Masters throughout this Grand Jurisdiction are **directed** to cancel or postpone all in-person Masonic events until May 4, 2020.
- **Essential maintenance or services in the Lodge or building like plumbing, heating, electrical, etc. that need to take place can continue, but maintenance items that can be put off, should be put off until after May 4, 2020.**

My Brethren, good can come from bad. While Freemasonry, our state, nation, and our world are in the midst of a pandemic, the best in our fellow man is shining through. You see my Brethren, while “Lodges” may temporarily close, “Freemasonry” never closes.

Lodge Brethren are getting creative and finding innovative ways to remain connected in brotherhood. Master’s Classes are being held online. ‘Virtual’ Masonic Education sessions are happening. District boundaries are fading as Brethren from one part of our beloved state join online sessions held by those in another region. “Just checking on you” emails are being sent. Brethren are calling Brethren.

Brethren, you are living and practicing your Freemasonry!

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank those members of our proud Fraternity representing police, fire, first responders, doctors and nurses who are making personal sacrifices for our benefit. I also applaud food services personnel, grocery store attendants, and those in the supply chain who are ensuring ample supplies of food and items essential for our daily living. Your special efforts in this critical time are very much noticed and appreciated.

Be safe my Brethren. Freemasonry notwithstanding, still survives.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth A. Clay Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" at the end.

Kenneth A. Clay Jr., *Grand Master*