

November 2, 2020

Grand High Priest's **EDICT 2020 – 4a Amendment**

To all Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Ohio

*Whereas*, the State of Ohio has been experiencing an increase in Covid-19 infections, and

*Whereas*, the Grand Chapter has an obligation to ensure the health and safety of all companions and candidates while conducting degree work under the ongoing national pandemic, and

In consultation with the elected Grand officers, the decision has been made to amend EDICT 2020-4.

As of November 2, 2020, based upon the State of Ohio's Coronavirus Covid-19 public advisory alert system, ALL Chapter or Mark Lodge inspections taking place in counties rated as Orange or Yellow are permitted to continue with in-person inspections with the following restrictions.

Attendance at all inspections will be limited to;

- Officers of the chapter being inspected,
- Degree cast members,
- Candidates,
- DEO and
- DDGHP.

Companions from other chapters within or outside the district are restricted from attending unless they are taking part in the degree cast. Instituting this change will help mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus and will help to protect the health of our Companions.

Inspections that are scheduled to take place in counties that fall within the Red category, should continue with pre-inspections only. The DDGHP should review the secretaries and treasurers records along with any other required records or documents. The DEO should also review the CEO records. Once a county has been downgraded to the Orange or Yellow category the inspecting officer can make plans to observe the conferral of the scheduled inspection degree.

At the present time, the State of Ohio updates the Coronavirus advisory alert system every Thursday. If a Lodge of Mark Masters or Royal Arch Chapter holds its stated business meeting within a county determined to be in the Red category, all degree work will be restricted.

In addition, to help control the spread of the virus, Chapters can-not relocate their scheduled inspection from a Red county to a county designated by the State of Ohio as Orange or Yellow.

**Now Therefore**, I, Daniel S. Smith, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Ohio, do declare this edict to be in effect from this date until January 2, 2021 unless amended or rescinded prior. Contingent upon the Coronavirus Covid-19 public advisory alert system, this edict may be extended beyond the January 2<sup>nd</sup> date.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason of Ohio in the city of Columbus Ohio on this Second day of November 2020.

Fraternally,

