



The Grand Council
of
Royal and Select Masons
of Ohio

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Date: December 31, 2020

RE: EDICT 2021-3: Council Meetings beginning January 1, 2021

This Edict Supersedes Edicts 2021-1 and 2021-2

WHEREAS, The Global Pandemic called COVID-19, the Ohio Department of Health introduced an Ohio Public Health Advisory System using four color indicators to identify the risk level for each county in the State of Ohio,

And WHEREAS, the four-color coded levels to gauge the risk level which are purple, red, orange and yellow to gauge the current pandemic exposure and spread rate as measured in each county,

And WHEREAS, the county color status is available at the following web site:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system>

And WHEREAS, the website is updated weekly by the Ohio Department of Health each Thursday,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL A. SMITH, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masons of Ohio, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of the State of Ohio, hereby decree that:

All Constituent Councils in the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masons in Ohio must follow the guidelines listed below for all Stated and Special Meetings:

General Guidelines for Council Operation during the Pandemic

- It is strongly encouraged to conduct virtual meetings until the Pandemic is under control.
- DO NOT feel obligated to attend Council if you are not comfortable doing so.
- If you have a temperature, do not feel well, or feel that you may have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of social distancing while in the Temple and at the Council Assembly.
- No Food (meal or refreshment) shall be served at any Council event.
- Council members should strictly follow Ohio, County and Local health department orders, along with CDC protocols regarding face coverings when in the Temple and at Council Assemblies.
- Respect each other's decision regarding personal contact.

All Stated Assembly Meetings

Stated Assembly Meetings from January 1 – 31, 2021

All Councils in the State of Ohio will operate under the Purple color code. This means Councils shall hold all Stated Assemblies via virtual meetings for the month of January 2021. No degree work shall be conducted in-person or virtually.

Stated Assembly Meetings after January 31, 2021

For Stated Assembly meetings after January 31, 2021, the following guidelines to be followed shall be in line with county color code defined by the State of Ohio:

- Purple – All in-person meetings are cancelled. A Virtual Meeting may be held by the order of the Illustrious Master to accomplish the necessary business of the Council. No degree work shall be conducted virtually.
- Red, Orange and Yellow – An in-person or virtual meeting may be convened by the order of the Illustrious Master per the Grand Council Code. If the meeting is Virtual, no degree work shall be conducted. All General Guidelines listed above regarding the Pandemic shall be followed.
- The only members in attendance shall be members of the Council, Arch Inspector and Grand Officers. No other visitors are permitted unless personally granted by the Illustrious Master and Arch Inspector. This will permit better social distancing at the Stated Assembly.

Degree Work after January 31, 2021

For degree work in the Royal Master and Select Master degrees to be conducted after January 31, 2021 the following protocols must be followed:

- Color of County where Council is located must be in the Red, Yellow or Orange status. If the county is Purple, NO degree work will be permitted.
- General Guidelines listed above regarding the Pandemic shall be followed.
- The Council shall minimize the cast to only those with speaking parts in each of the degrees (exception is giblites in Royal Master). This will allow for better social distancing among the cast members.
- The only members in attendance shall be members of the Council, degree participants, Arch Inspector and Grand Officers. No other visitors are permitted unless personally granted by the Illustrious Master and Arch Inspector.
- At this time, all Super Excellent Master degrees are postponed. More information will be forthcoming regarding SEM degrees.

Annual Inspection/SEM Review

As noted in Edict 2021-2 all Inspections and SEM Review degree work are cancelled for the 2020-2021 Cryptic Year. The Arch Inspector will work with the Illustrious Master, Recorder and Treasurer of the Constituent Council and review the documentation required for the Annual Inspection. This information shall be provided to the Arch Inspector by the original date agreed for the Inspection. The Arch Inspector shall complete the review and provide to the Grand Council the Inspection Review form.

I FURTHER DIRECT this Edict is required to be read and entered into the minutes at the next Stated Meeting of each Council in this Grand Jurisdiction. This Edict is to be in effect until midnight on **October 4, 2021** or until future Edict shall supersede.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Ohio in the City of Centerville, Ohio this Thirty-first day of December, A.D. 2020 A.Dep. 3020.

Fraternally,

Michael A Smith

Michael A. Smith
Grand Master, Royal and Select Masons of Ohio