



THE GRAND LODGE  
OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NEW MEXICO

TELEPHONE (505) 385-0490 P.O. Box 25004, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125-0004

FAX: (505) 242-8723 E-MAIL: GM@NMMASONS.ORG

Jonathan R. Andrews  
Grand Master 2021

To all Constituent Lodges and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico: this communication is to be given the widest possible distribution among the Brethren and be placed within your Lodge minutes. As provided in Chapter 11, Powers and Duties of Grand Lodge Officers, Code 20, "Grand Master", Section (g).

Considering the continued concerns over potential extreme health complications and death with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), considering that the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has determined that the Grand Lodge of New Mexico and by definition, its Constituent Lodges, and all Appendant Bodies are defined as "Mass Gatherings," considering improvements in case counts and easing restrictions from the State, and with an updated Public Health Order from the NMDOH allowing a reopening according to a county-by-county "Red to Green" framework, I hereby rescind Edict #1, issued on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and issue the following Edict:

Edict No. 2  
May 2, 2021

It is my order that all meetings and events that would be held under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, including any Appendant Bodies (hereinafter, "in-person meetings") are to be synchronized with the Mass Gathering limits in the "Red to Green" framework from the NMDOH. Specifically:

1. Mass Gatherings in a county deemed by the NMDOH to be "Red" are not allowed to exceed 5 attendees. Therefore, in-person meetings in a "Red" county are NOT ALLOWED.
2. Mass Gatherings in a county deemed by the NMDOH to be "Yellow" cannot exceed 10 attendees. Therefore, in-person meetings in a "Yellow" county are ALLOWED up to that limit of 10 in-person attendees.
3. Mass Gatherings in a county deemed by the NMDOH to be "Green" cannot exceed 20 attendees. Therefore, in-person meetings in a "Green" county are ALLOWED up to that limit of 20 in-person attendees.
4. Mass Gatherings in a county deemed by the NMDOH to be "Turquoise" cannot exceed 150 attendees. Therefore, in-person meetings in a "Turquoise" county are ALLOWED up to that limit of 150 in-person attendees.

Additional requirements for in-person meetings in "Yellow," "Green," or "Turquoise" counties are outlined in this edict and shall be followed. Any county that moves to "Red" must immediately cease in-person meetings. All dispensations normally required while conforming to this Edict are considered granted.

- The Worshipful Master of each Constituent Lodge shall decide whether to conduct in-person meetings or continue virtual meetings, but tyled in-person meetings and virtual meetings cannot be opened at the same time.
- The decision to conduct in-person meetings for each Appendant Body organization is at the discretion of the head of that organization but must balance parent organization guidance and building owner-tenant agreements.
- In-person meetings SHALL NOT bypass county Color Code attendance limits by splitting into groups within a building, splitting into groups at nearby buildings or parking lots, meeting outside or any other means. Mass gathering limits apply to the entire property and event.
- Food or drink may be served in masonic facilities provided at least two elected officers (or two appointees from the responsible head of the Appendant Body) have completed the New Mexico COVID-Safe Training Program for Restaurants, and all items in the COVID-Safe Checklist for Food Service are followed for every in-person meeting. This training and checklist is required regardless of whether food is cooked on site or purchased elsewhere if the food is served in a masonic facility. The Checklist is attached to this Edict.
- All in-person meetings shall follow all COVID-safe practices, including:
  - Face masks are required at all times even when speaking. Face masks shall be multi-layer cotton or medical grade and shall be free of political or religious statements.
  - Minimum 6 feet social distancing at all times, with the exception of degree work where all parties must be wearing disposable non-latex gloves for any closer contact and to exchange grips/tokens.
  - Hand Sanitizer must be available at multiple locations, including the outer and inner doors and restrooms.
  - Restrooms must be clean and stocked with disinfecting hand soap.
  - All high touch areas must be regularly sanitized.
  - Any other COVID-safe practices defined by the NMDOH.
- Visitations are allowed between counties regardless of Color Code, but must adhere to the attendance limits in the county where the in-person meeting will be held and must have the

permission of the Worshipful Master. Visitations shall not interfere with lodge business, namely any visitor may not displace another member who desires attendance.

- Lodges shall implement a fair and equitable method to allow various members to attend in-person, so the same members are not attending every meeting to the exclusion of others.
- Failure to comply with this edict shall result in penalties for the offending brother or Lodge, and may include trial or suspension of the offending Lodge's charter until the Grand Master shall be satisfied that the offense is resolved and will not be repeated.

Issuance:

This Edict is to be read at the first regular communication after receipt, and Lodges should share it with their members.

If you suspect you are sick, call the New Mexico Coronavirus Hotline at 855-600-3453. Stay informed and monitor the spread by visiting: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/> The NMDOH map of color status of counties:

<https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/public-dashboard.html>

Jonathan R. Andrews



Grand Master

Attest: H. C. Sky Olsen



Grand Secretary



## COVID Safe Checklist for Food Service in Masonic Facilities

- At least two elected officers at an in-person meeting in a masonic facility must complete the NM Safe Certified Training for Restaurants. Instructions for registering and completing training are on next page.
  - At least one officer shall ensure this checklist is completed for each in-person meeting
- Maintain contact tracing records for no less than 21 days by recording date, time, name(s), phone number(s) and email address(es) for everyone who dines on premises (indoor or outdoor).
- Maintain social distancing limits and Mass Gathering limits per health code:
  - Maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times between all attendees
  - Tables must be separated by at least 6 feet
  - Adhere to the Mass Gathering Occupancy Limits per the county Color Code of the in-person meeting event
  - Post a maximum occupancy limit sign on the front door of the building consistent with the Mass Gathering limit
  - Close common areas or modify them to maintain social distancing
  - Discontinue services that require congregation or use of common utensils
  - Discontinue salad bars, buffets and beverage/coffee stations
  - Attendees must be seated at all times to avoid congregating
- Follow proper sanitation:
  - Clean and disinfect all high-contact surfaces using EPA-approved disinfectant
  - Follow all daily cleaning and sanitation protocols per the NM Safe Certified Training and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Wash hands or change gloves after handling used food items from one person before serving another person
  - Clean and sanitize reusable items such as menus and condiment containers, or offer single use items
  - Ensure washing machines and water temperature are correct for disinfecting
  - No pets allowed, except service animals
- Follow proper food preparation procedures:
  - Cook to proper internal temperature
  - Hot foods are cooled rapidly and stored in a refrigerator for later use
  - Sanitize and separate food contact surfaces

\*\*\* If anyone in the Masonic Facility is confirmed positive for COVID-19, the Worshipful Master (or head of Appendant Body) is required to report that case **WITHIN 4 HOURS** to the New Mexico Environment Department Rapid Response at: <https://nmgov.force.com/rapidresponse/s/>  
505-476-8700

## Instructions for completing NM Safe Certified Training for Restaurants

1. Navigate to <https://nmsafecertified.org/get-certified/>
2. Scroll down the page until you see a box titled "Restaurants." Click on the "Get Certified Now" link in the "Restaurants" box
3. Enter your email address to begin registration and click continue
4. On the registration screen, enter your contact information and your masonic organization (Officer of ABC Lodge #XYZ), and submit to the state
5. The state will email you login information to begin training. Login into the "Covid Safe Training Program" website link provided in the registration email
6. Click on the "Online Training" link. Complete mandatory training for all three (3) trainings, including quizzes:
  - a. "All Employers: COVID-Safe Practices"
  - b. "Restaurants & Bars: COVID-Safe Practices"
  - c. "Retail: COVID-Safe Practices"
7. Maintain a copy of your training certificate, as the state has a right to ask for proof of certification
8. Congratulations on completing the training to keep your lodge and attendees safe!