



**Robert L. Duitsman**  
*Grand Exalted Ruler*

March 20, 2020

*A Fraternal Organization*

All,

Various Local Lodges are requesting information pertaining to being open or closed. As a reminder, Local Subordinate Lodges are Chartered under the 501(c)(8) umbrella of the Grand Lodge and governed by the Constitution, Statutes and Laws of the Order.

The day to day operations are overseen by the Lodge Officers, the House Committee and membership as governed by said Constitution, Statutes and Laws of the Order as well as complying with local, county, state and federal laws, executive orders, mandates, rules and ordinances. Of which, most are different for each Lodge or Lodge location. In instances of this nature, Local Lodges must also comply with any local, county, state and federal public health mandates, directives and announcements as well as using common sense during these trying times.

Attached are suggested recommendations for the Local Lodges to follow and offer guidance on other items. ***For further guidance, assistance and direction, please contact your State Sponsor.***

Grand Lodge hopes each Local Lodge and State Association has implemented the following CDC guidelines on practical ways to prevent the spread of infection:

1. No shaking hands, hugging, knuckle bumps or high fives.
2. Keep a safe distance from others. Six feet when possible.
3. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
4. No soap? Use hand sanitizer (60–95% alcohol based).
5. Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
6. Cover your cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
7. Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Encourage others to do the same.

We all need to keep in mind that the health of our Members, spouses, significant others, friends, volunteers and employees is paramount. Let's be vigilant in our efforts to keep one another healthy!

Fraternally and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Duitsman".

Robert L. Duitsman  
Grand Exalted Ruler

CC: Advisory  
Endorsed Candidate for GER  
Board of Grand Trustees  
Grand Forum  
Special Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers  
GL Committees  
District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers  
State Associations: Presidents & Secretaries