



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 11

14th August 2020

Dear Bro Secretary,

I trust you are well. I would be grateful if you will note the following points and distribute this bulletin to all your members including honorary members:

1. Face Coverings

Mark Masons Hall has issued a directive to their members that masks or visors must be worn at all Mark Lodge meetings. To date there is no such directive from Grand Lodge but members are advised to follow Government Guidelines which state 'There are some places where you must wear a face covering by law... community centres, youth centres and social clubs...you are expected to wear a face covering before entering any of these settings and must keep it on until you leave unless there is a reasonable excuse for removing it'. The full Government Guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

2. Masonic Branded Masks

Steve Allum has kindly organised the manufacture of Provincial face masks. These can be ordered using the attached process.



3. Opening of Masonic Centres

I have been advised by the ProvGSuptWks that all but 3 Masonic Centres in the Province will be open as from 1st September. Each Centre will have completed a risk assessment and method statement by that time to enable Lodges to decide if they are happy with the arrangements.

For the sake of clarity, the directive from Grand Lodge that no Festive Boards should take place is still in force.

4. Appointments and Promotions

The Appointments and Promotions process for July 2021 will begin later in the year - guidance notes will be issued with the next bulletin. For your information there will be no Active appointments or appointments to Provincial Grand Steward. This is due to Official Visits being suspended for the next masonic season.

5. Abandoning Meetings

There has been a number of Lodges indicate that they will not meet until 2021. Can I please stress that **there is no provision to cancel a Lodge meeting in advance** and neither the WM nor Lodge Secretary are in a position to make the assumption that members do not wish to attend the meeting.

To repeat the guidelines from the previous bulletin: In the current circumstances, meetings can only be abandoned for one of the following reasons:

- i. **The Lodge is unable to reach a quorum** (i.e. 5 members excluding the Tyler and Candidate, one of which must be a Past Master). It is recommended that the Lodge Secretary keeps a record of apologies to enable him to determine if and when this point has been reached.

If, after the summons has been issued, it becomes clear to the Secretary that the number of apologies is such that a quorum will be unattainable, there will clearly be no point in the few remaining Brethren making unnecessary journeys. All members should therefore be advised of the position and at the point at which the Lodge is due to be opened (but not earlier) it may be presumed that the meeting has been abandoned. However, the Secretary must not merely assume that the members of the Lodge do not wish to meet.

- ii. **The Masonic Centre is closed.** In this case, efforts should be made to find an alternative venue and to hold the meeting by Dispensation (within 28 days of the regular meeting date). Consideration should be given to alternative Centres however, as they may be inundated with similar requests and unable to accommodate your lodge without undue pressure.

If the Lodge Warrant is inaccessible as a result of your usual Centre being closed, the Lodge must apply for a Warrant of Confirmation (via the Provincial Secretary) and receive a letter of authority from Grand Lodge for permission to meet.

In order for the Provincial Office to fully monitor the ongoing situation, it is important that a summons is issued for every scheduled Lodge meeting and a copy emailed to the Provincial Office at least 14 days before the meeting (please note the extended timescale from the current 10 days).

Fraternal Regards
Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary