



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 23

Resumption of Meetings

14th May 2021

Dear Bro Secretary,

This bulletin is primarily for the guidance of Lodge Secretaries on the resumption of meetings. However, you may wish to circulate to your members, Honorary Members and Visiting Officer.

May I also refer you to the document issued in the UGLE First Risings on 10th May 2021 for further information.

1. Resumption of Meetings

As from 17th May, all regular Lodge meetings (as indicated in the Lodge by-laws) must be held. There is no facility in the Book of Constitutions to cancel a meeting (Rule 137), however those few Lodges still under voluntary suspension may of course continue until their suspension period expires.

A summons must be issued for every meeting at least 10 days before and a copy emailed to summons@hantsmasons.org.

2. Required Statement in the Lodge Minutes

After resumption of meetings, will you please ensure that the following entry is made in the Lodge minutes for your first meeting:

“As a result of [the suspension of Masonic meetings][and/or][Government restrictions], owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Lodge was unable to meet during the period from to”

3. Meetings between 17th May and 21st June

I have been asked on numerous occasions for clarification regarding the number of brethren allowed at meetings from 17th May. The published Government guidelines clearly state that the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply indoors and the advice from the Province is in support of this.

However, UGLE have indicated that If a Masonic Centre has conducted a risk assessment, taken into account government guidance and taken all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid then it may host Covid-Secure Masonic meetings of more than 6 people, up to the lower of a) the maximum capacity identified in the risk assessment or b) 30 attendees.

It is up to the Masonic Centre in conjunction with individual Lodges to decide if the latter option is to be applied, but pressure should not be exerted on Lodge members to attend meetings if they do not feel comfortable in doing so, nor should Lodges exert undue pressure on the Centre to meet above the rule of 6.

Similar rules apply to dining arrangements which again should follow Government guidelines.

4. Sunday Meetings

Please note the announcement in the UGLE First Risings that from 1st September to 31st December 2021 Lodge meetings are permitted to be held on Sundays (by dispensation).

5. Installation Meetings

The subject of Installation Meetings has become very complicated. However, the following information may be of assistance:

- a. 86 Lodges in this province were unable to hold their scheduled Installation Meeting and/or appoint Lodge Officers between 11th September 2020 and 27th February 2021. For these Lodges, the WM automatically continues in Office for a further year and no dispensation or ceremony is required. At the first regular meeting after resumption, the WM must appoint and invest his Officers. The Provincial 'Installation' Return (sent to you prior to the scheduled meeting date) must then be emailed to returns@hantsmasons.org
- b. 82 Lodges have Installation dates between 1st March and 13th July 2021. The rules for holding these meetings are varied depending on individual circumstances and the Temporary Measures were explained in Bulletin 20.

Please see rules 106, 108 and 139(c) for guidance on Electing the WM and/or postponing the Installation date.

For further advice, please contact the Provincial Office. Specific questions regarding the Installation Return should be directed to Roger.Curtis@hantsmasons.org.

In all cases the UGLE 'Installation' Return is required to be emailed to registration@ugle.org.uk.

6. Candidates for Initiation

May I remind you that candidates for Initiation must be proposed at a regular meeting only and balloted at the next regular meeting (rule 159). A successful ballot will last for one year after which it becomes void.

In such circumstances and when the Initiation was prevented due the pandemic, the candidate may be re-proposed, elected and initiated on the same evening under rule 160 (hardship). If the candidate was proposed but not balloted, the normal rules will apply.

If a dispensation is required to conduct an Initiation at an Emergency Meeting (rule 140), the Provincial Office will need to be advised of the candidates' full name and both the proposal and ballot dates.

Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary