



GRAND LODGE OF
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND SECRETARY

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Covid-19 Update December 21 2021

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Brethren,

The Omicron variant is surging and along with it the challenging imposition of further restrictions by our local, provincial and federal health agencies.

Many health regulations are changing weekly if not daily and we are attempting to stay on top of things and keep you informed as best we can.

As we have always stated ALL local, provincial and Federal health regulations MUST be followed and that any Grand Lodge restrictions apply only in addition to those other restrictions.

On December 19 2021 the Ontario government applied new restrictions to meeting and event spaces – the category under which lodges fall. **The restrictions are listed below – and we note specifically point 4.** These new restrictions have forced us to apply conditions to any and all lodge meetings conducted in the near future.

Therefore, effective immediately no ritual work may be performed in lodge. That includes all degree work and the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture of Lodge Officers.

Note: On December 19, 2021, subsection 4 (1) of Schedule 1 to the Regulation is amended by adding the following paragraphs: (See: O. Reg. 865/21, s. 1 (5))

1. The total number of members of the public who are permitted to be in the indoor areas of the business or place at any one time shall not exceed 50 per cent capacity, as determined in accordance with subsection 3 (3) of Schedule 1.
2. The person responsible for the business or place must post a sign in a conspicuous location visible to the public that states the capacity limits under which the business or place is permitted to operate.
3. No more than 10 people may be seated together at any table in the rented space unless everyone seated at the table is,
 - i. a member of the same household,
 - ii. a member of up to one other household who lives alone, or
 - iii. a caregiver for any member of either household.
4. Patrons must remain seated at all times in the rented space, except,

- i. while entering the rented space and while moving to their table,
- ii. while exiting the rented space,
- iii. while going to or returning from a washroom,
- iv. while lining up to do anything described in subparagraphs i to iii, or
- v. where necessary for the purposes of health and safety.

We also remind the brethren of the new regulations regarding indoor events – specifically family gatherings and other social functions. Please be extremely cautious in your attendance at any Holiday social functions and obey public health regulations for such gatherings.

Fraternally,



D. Garry Dowling,
Grand Secretary



David J. Cameron,
Grand Master