



Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada  
in the Province of Ontario

**Grand Master**

**COVID-19 Update January 28, 2022**

Brethren,

The Provincial government has published the changes to the COVID regulations. Unfortunately there were changes from what they told us last week. In meeting and event spaces, regardless of whether one is eating or drinking or not, everyone must remain in their seats. This means we will not be able to do official openings and closings, ritual, elections or balloting. Regarding Masonic Memorial Services, the Registrar of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario has published directives for Funeral Homes which discourage the kind of movement our Memorial Service entails.

As announced, occupancy in meeting spaces will be allowed at 50% capacity.

Another new announcement is that we will not be required to collect contact tracing data, although we will still have to do active screening and show proof of vaccination (or medical exemption) at the door. Medical exemptions are now incorporated in the Verify Ontario mobile app, so that should make things a little easier.

**Therefore, as of January 31, 2022, lodges will be allowed to gather in their meeting spaces following the public health restrictions *if the members wish*, but they will not be able to do openings and closings, ritual, balloting, elections or Masonic Memorial Services. Unofficial business meetings may occur and rehearsing may be done as long as everyone remains seated.**

The full regulation can be read at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200364> but a simplified summary of the parts relating to us is appended below.

The government also announced further reductions in restrictions to take place on February 21 and March 14, however the fine print for these are not yet available, and having learned our lesson, we will not be sending anything out until they are actually published!

And a reminder that you may also have local restrictions as well. Please check on these.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
David J. Cameron  
Grand Master

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## **Simplified summary of changes relating to lodges**

The total capacity must not exceed 50% (as calculated from the Fire Marshall's limits).  
This must be posted at the door.

No more than 10 people may be seated together at any table.

Masks must be worn at all times.

Line-ups inside or outside the building must have physical distancing as well as masks.

Everyone must remain seated at all times except when entering, exiting, going to the bathroom or lining up.

No singing.

Self-screening signage, Active Screening, Proof of Vaccination, Cleaning, Safety Plan, etc. as detailed before.