

Chapter Degree Work Guidelines

Governor Baker moved Massachusetts into Phase 4, Step 1 as of Monday, 3/22/2021.

Starting Monday 3/22/2021, updated capacity guidelines for Lodge meetings are as follows:

Lodges may meet indoors with the following number of attendees:

- 50% of listed occupancy limit of the Lodge room (if occupancy permit was issued by your local town government);

OR

- 10 per 1000 sq ft of Lodge room space, if no specific occupancy permit exists;

OR

- up to 100 members maximum;
- whichever of these three is greatest - but 6 feet social distancing MUST be maintained (*see note).

Outdoor meetings may meet with 150 attendees maximum.

Please also follow all local guidelines.

Note that the City of Boston has set a lower limit of up to 60 members maximum.

The remaining usual guidelines for safety remain in place:

- Everyone must wear a mask inside, even if 6 feet socially distanced.
- 6 feet social distancing should be maintained at all times. *Note: individuals who are fully vaccinated may sit together.
- All meals (if done) should be prepared and served by licensed restaurant suppliers.
Brethren who eat at Lodge must be seated at least 6 feet apart, unless they are living in the same household or are fully vaccinated. Restaurant Guidelines indicate 6 may sit at a table. These two guidelines contradict each other. Brethren should decide what they feel is safe and act accordingly.

The above guidelines are written for Masonic Lodges – but also would pertain to York Rite Chapters, Councils and Commanderies – pending authorization by the heads of Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery.

The “no contact” guideline for Chapter work (including Degrees) can be modified for those willing to participate, but all sanitary procedures must be followed (wear gloves/wash hands/use hand sanitizer, keep your distance so you “don’t share your air” with someone else.)

Fraternally,

Ex. Donald S. Stevens

Chairman, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Covid-19 Advisory Committee