

Grand High Priest Directive concerning Reopening of Chapters
Tuesday, April 21, 2021

Companions,

In response to the latest directive from the Grand Master of Masons of California, Most Worshipful Arthur H. Weiss, I am issuing this information concerning the reopening of the Chapters of Royal Arch Masonry in California.

Whereas, the Grand Master directive is sufficiently comprehensive in its directions for reopening the Lodges of the Grand Lodge of California,

And whereas, those directions rely on specific criteria following State Guidelines set under the “private events” of which our Chapters now are included,

And whereas it is up to each High Priest to decide if his Chapter wishes to either follow those specific directions to reopen or to continue holding chapter business meetings via a virtual platform for the foreseeable future,

It is my direction that the Chapters of Royal Arch Masonry may either continue conducting business as they have for the past several months virtually OR proceed to follow to the letter the directive of the Grand Master as to opening for In Person meetings. Hybrid meetings are not allowed currently. In Person Meetings as thus allowed for the purpose of Stated Convocations with no Ritual involved besides the Opening and Closing of the Chapters. No Degree work is authorized at the current time.

The following items must be considered if the Chapter is to open for In Person meetings:

The basic guidelines for being in public are to maintain social distance (currently 6 feet), wear a mask or face covering, and wash hands frequently.

- California Department of Public Health has made available specific guideline for various activities depending on the colored tier of the county.

- Royal Arch Masonry falls under the guidelines for in-door and out-door private events.

- Grand Master's Directive of April 15, 2021 allows Royal Arch activities including regular meetings, degree conferrals, and social activities that follow the requirements set forth in the directive.

These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Completed vaccination protocol.
- Possession of a valid vaccination card showing the vaccination protocol compliance.
- If no vaccination, the person must present proof of a negative Covid virus test within three days of the event they wish to attend.
- Persons without vaccination or proof of negative Covid test will not be allowed entry.
- Registered guest list and seating plan.
- Wearing of face coverings; gloves as appropriate to the Activity.
- Site Specific Plan for the event location.

Most Excellent Richard W. Bullard

Grand High Priest