



FREEMASONS
New Zealand

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. When can our Lodge open?

A. **All Lodges will remain closed until 31st May 2020.** Decisions on reopening will be made, after further Government announcements on 25th May 2020, by the Grand Master.

Q. Have we got any Covid-19 Guidelines and Resources?

A. **We have sent out Guidelines and a Resource Kit for Lodges** to assist them in reopening safely, these can also be found at www.freemasons.nz under the Covid-19 Tab on the home page.

Q. Who should we consult in the process of reopening?

A. **You should consult with all your members**, so that, any reopening accommodates everyone's needs and also talk with your District Grand Master who has the further support of his Divisional Grand Master and National Office.

Q. How to we record details required by Health Authorities for Contact Tracing?

A. **Your Lodge supplied Resource Kit is a Contact Tracing Register template** that can be photocopied. You should also nominate some to take responsibility for making sure it is completed by all attending and making it available to Health Authorities if required.

Q. If I am unwell what should I do?

A **You should not come to Lodge** and if you do you will be asked to go home. You should talk with your doctor or make contact with Healthline on 0800 358 5453 on any health issue you may be having.

Q. What should we do if a Brother turns up who we know is ill or we suspect may be ill?

A. Whilst ensuring that you maintain social distancing, **respectfully ask the brother to leave saying that you have concern for the health of the other Brethren present.**

Q. We have a Brother who requires assistance with walking and with putting on his apron. Can he still attend Lodge?

A. Yes but ensure that you **nominate a single Brother to assist him** and ensure you keep a record of who helped.

Q. Is it ok to ask Brethren, before the meeting begins, to confirm that they have not travelled overseas recently or been in contact with anyone who has had Covid-19?

A. Yes. **It is the responsibility of all of us to keep each other safe.**

Q. Can I wear a face mask and/or disposable gloves?

A. You may wear one or both if this makes you feel comfortable and safe **but this does not allow you to attend Lodge if you are unwell.**

Q. What is social distancing?

A. This is the space we must be away from each other in all situations. Generally 2 metres away from people you don't know and with no Contact Tracing in place **and 1 metre away if in controlled environment with Health and Safety practices as well as Contact Tracing are in place.**

Q. What Health and Safety must I apply to Refectory (if being held onsite)?

A. **You must be seated, have social distancing,** hand hygiene, regular cleaning of common surfaces **and be served at table (by only one server)** or be able to get your individually plated food one at a time. Lodges can use sealed food packs or plates covered with cling wrap from a single caterer. If dining offsite then the Health and Safety requirements are those of the venue being used.

Q. We normally have 'bring a plate' for Refectory, can we still do this?

A. No. **Food must be prepared by a single entity,** either a professional caterer or one person from within the Lodge.

Q. Having a plated Refectory is more expensive, can we not have a buffet?

A. No. All meals must be individually plated. The same rules for Refectory apply as for cafes and restaurants. **The three 'S's' – seated service, social distancing and single servers.** If the Lodge is providing stewards remember one steward per table or group of tables.

Q. Are we allowed to hold a Lodge Meeting but not have Refectory?

A. **Yes you are.** You may consider the Master giving his 'further remarks' prior to closing the Lodge.

Q. What Health and Safety must I apply to Lodge Rooms and Ceremonial?

A. **Social distancing, practice hand hygiene, regular cleaning of common surfaces and equipment used in ceremonial.** Avoidance of contact were possible (with sanitiser before and after if this is not possible) and portions of ceremonial can be described verbally.

Q. We are working a Degree, how much of the ceremony should we explain to the candidate to reassure him over social distancing?

A. **Explain that the level of contact is dependent on him.** For all Degrees, ask if he is happy to have his hand held and with shaking hands. Consider wearing disposable gloves and ensure all those involved sanitise their hands before proceeding. Also explain, especially for the First Degree, that he needs to walk beside his conductor.

Q. What Health and Safety must I apply for Crush and other Facilities?

A. **Social distancing, practice hand hygiene, hand sanitiser at entry/exit, no handshakes use the sign of fidelity instead, clean common surfaces with special attention to toilets which should have soap and water and preferably paper towels or hand dryer.** Contact Tracing Register should be in Crush and a nominated officer in charge to make sure everyone records their details separate from the attendance Register and also keeps for use by Health Authorities if required.

Q. Do we have to have hand sanitisers available - it is expensive?

A. Yes. **You must have hand sanitisers available at all times** as part of your risk mitigation policy otherwise the Lodge can not open. Soap works for Toilets and Kitchens as well.

Q. We share the Lodge Room with several other Lodges. One of the Lodges is not adhering to the risk mitigation policy for the building, what should we do?

A. **Talk to your District Grand Master** and ask for his assistance.