

17th August 2020

Dear Brethren

Following the Government's COVID-19 restriction announcement last week and my decision to close all Lodges, I have extended the closing of all Lodges until I can reassess the situation on 21st August 2020 after which I will make a further announcement.

A national-wide Lodge closure is necessary as a precautionary measure because the full extent of the original source of the community outbreak has not been established. I am also aware that in the course of our daily lives, people are still travelling and/or mixing in their communities

In light of the uncertainty around future community transmission and the raising and lowering of COVID-19 Alert Levels across the country, Freemasons New Zealand is reviewing its Policy and Guidelines including any additional requirements that may be necessary, particularly if we have a regional approach to differing levels of Alert.

Lodges are to ensure that they have their Risk Mitigation Plan in place and sufficient Health and Safety supplies for when they are able to resume activities. The Risk Mitigation Plan must be provided to your District Grand Master before Lodges can consider re-opening, when again allowed. Resources are available to all Lodges on our website www.freemasonsnz.org/covid-19

The current COVID-19 Dispensations are still available to be used as required.

It is important, given the makeup of our membership, that we take all steps to protect each other, our families along with widows and older brethren and that we use all available means to stay in touch and support and help them.

Stay safe, stay well and continue to be kind to each other.

Yours fraternally,

Graham J. Wrigley

Grand Master