

		Operating Guidelines for Lodge Meetings at various Alert Levels (Delta Variant)		Effective from: 22 September 2021
		www.covid19.govt.nz	www.freemasons.nz.org/covid-19	
RISK		GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS COVID-19	FREEMASONS NEW ZEALAND	
LEVEL 1 - PREPARE	COVID-19 is uncontrolled overseas. Sporadic imported cases. Isolated local transmission could be occurring in New Zealand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases. • Intensive testing for COVID-19. • Rapid contact tracing of any positive case. • Self-isolation and quarantine required. • Schools and workplaces open and must operate safely. • No restrictions on personal movement but people are encouraged to maintain a record of where they have been. • No restrictions on gatherings but organisers encouraged to maintain records to enable contact tracing. • Stay home if you are sick, report flu-like symptoms. • Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow and do not touch your face. • No restrictions on domestic transport – avoid public transport or travel if sick. • No restrictions on workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow any limitations or restrictions announced by the Government. • Lodges can open and no restrictions on meetings or activities. • Risk Mitigation Plan approved by the District Grand Master. Plans must include the levels at which the Lodge will open based on their risk profile. • Maintain a Contact Tracing Register and hold for 14 days and to be completed by everyone attending meetings. Buildings to have the Government approved QR code displayed at all entrances. It can be found here https://covid19.govt.nz/business-work-and-money/business/get-your-qr-code-poster/ • Brethren to download the Government Tracing App on a mobile device. Scanning or recording attendance is mandatory at all Lodge buildings. • Brethren that are unwell must stay home and not attend Lodge meetings, including visiting Brethren. • Ensure good hygiene in bathrooms and kitchen facilities. • Ensure that hand sanitiser is freely available for use by all Brethren in the Lodge room and other areas. • Do not travel from an area with higher Alert Level to an area with lower one to attend a Lodge meeting. • Follow any directives or restrictions advised by the Grand Master. 	

LEVEL 2 - REDUCE

Limited community transmission could be occurring. Active clusters in more than one region.

- People can connect with friends and family, and socialise in groups of up to 50 indoors, go shopping, or travel domestically, if following public health guidance.
- Keep physical distancing of two metres from people you do not know when out in public or in retail stores. Keep two metre physical distancing in controlled environments like workplaces, where practicable.
- Wearing a face covering is mandatory when you cannot maintain a 2-metre separation and when indoors at public facilities.
- No more than 50 people at indoor gatherings, including weddings, birthdays, and funerals and tangihanga.
- Businesses can open to the public if following public health guidance including physical distancing and record keeping. Alternative ways of working encouraged where possible.
- Hospitality businesses must keep groups of customers separated, seated, and served by a single person. Maximum of 50 people at a time.
- All businesses must display a government issued QR code for use with the NZ COVID Tracer App by 19 August 2020. Scanning or manual records are mandatory.
- Face coverings are required if you are in close contact with others you do not know.
- Sport and recreation activities are allowed, subject to conditions on gatherings, record keeping, and – where practical – physical distancing.
- Public venues such as museums, libraries and pools can open if they comply with public health measures and ensure 2 metre physical distancing and record keeping.
- Event facilities, including cinemas, stadiums, concert venues and casinos can have more than 50 people at a time, if there are no more than 50 in a defined space, and the groups do not mix.
- It is safe to send your children to schools, early learning services and tertiary education. There will be appropriate measures in place.
- People at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled, and seniors) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. They may work, if they agree with their employer, that they can do so safely.
- Follow Level 1 requirements and any variations.
- Follow government advice on health and best practice.
- Lodges may open, but no more than 50 Brethren attending any meeting. The choice to open or not (dispensation required) is the decision of each Lodge but must be a part of their Lodge Risk Mitigation Plan.
- If the gathering numbers are lowered, follow that criterion. If limited to only 10 people, then have the business session only with no ceremonies. If over 10 are attending, ceremonies may proceed if the Lodge wishes.
- Do not travel or attend any Lodge meetings out of your District that are at a lower Alert Level (1)
- Maintain social distancing from people that you don't know. Keep 2 metre distancing in the Lodge room where practical.
- Vulnerable or at-risk Brethren should stay at home.
- Lodge Risk Mitigation Plan should determine maximum numbers in each room (Lodge room & Refectory).
- Facemasks can be worn if preferred by Brethren.
- Degree work and Installation may continue with good hygiene practises in place. Extensively use hand sanitisers and or nitrile gloves if preferred. For Lodge Installations, limit the number of GL Officers attending to only those engaged in the ceremony.
- Inform Candidates that touching is involved in the ceremony and ensure that they are comfortable with this.
- Refectory numbers should be limited where practical with good hygiene to be practiced in kitchens.
- Follow any directives or restrictions advised by the Grand Master.

LEVEL 3 - RESTRICT

Multiple cases of community transmission occurring. Multiple active clusters in multiple regions.

- People instructed to stay home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement – including to shop, go to work or school if they have to, local recreation, or to seek medical care.
- Physical distancing of two metres outside home or one metre in controlled environments like schools and workplaces.
- Wearing a face covering is mandatory when you can not maintain a 2-metre separation and when indoors at public facilities.
- People must stay within their immediate household bubble but can expand this to connect with close family / whānau, or bring in caregivers, or support isolated people. This extended bubble must remain exclusive.
- Early learning centres and schools are open for children whose parents have to go to work and have no care giver arrangements, particularly essential workers.
- People must work from home unless that is not possible.
- Businesses can open premises but cannot physically interact with customers.
- Workers should be kept at least 1 metre apart where possible, and face coverings are strongly recommended.
- All businesses must display a government issued QR code for use with the NZ COVID Tracer App by 19 August 2020.
- Low risk local recreation activities are allowed.
- Public venues are closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, playgrounds, markets).
- Gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.
- Inter-regional travel is highly limited (e.g. for essential workers, people returning to their primary residence, with limited exemptions for others).
- People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible and seek medical advice.

- All Lodge meetings and Masonic activities are suspended under the authority of the Grand Master.
- Implement welfare arrangements for Brethren and widows.
- Do not travel or attend any Lodge meetings out of your District that are at a lower Alert Level (2, or 1)
- Use Video conferencing for social connection with Brethren to create Masonic Gatherings.
- Follow any further directives advised by the Grand Master.

LEVEL 4 - LOCKDOWN	Sustained and intensive community transmission is occurring. Widespread outbreaks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People instructed to stay at home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement.• Safe recreational activity is allowed in local area.• Travel is severely limited.• All gatherings cancelled and all public venues closed.• Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics, petrol stations) and lifeline utilities.• Educational facilities closed.• Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities possible.• Reprioritisation of healthcare services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Lodge meetings and Masonic activities are suspended under the authority of the Grand Master.• Implement welfare arrangements for Brethren and widows.• Do not travel or attend any Lodge meetings out of your District that are at a lower Alert Level (3, 2, or 1)• Use Video conferencing for social connection with Brethren to create Masonic Gatherings.• Follow any further directives advised by the Grand Master.
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