



**Graham J. Wrigley**  
GRAND MASTER



20 April 2022

### **COVID-19 – Updated Guidelines**

As the whole of New Zealand has now moved to the **Orange level** under the Government's Covid Protection Framework (Traffic Light System), it has been necessary to review the Freemasons New Zealand Guidelines for Lodge meetings.

We also note that some of the restrictions contained in the original framework have now been removed, it is therefore appropriate to now withdraw the guidelines that we issued on 14 February 2022. These are now cancelled and are replaced with the details contained in this Circular.

The provision for Lodge Dispensations not to meet are no longer appropriate and are therefore now withdrawn. Lodges are encouraged to return to normality as quickly as possible, but within the Governments rules and requirements. There are no other layers required above those now covered within the Covid Framework.

Should there be any future change to the Governments requirements, a new Circular will be issued.

#### **1. Government Requirements for operating at the Orange level**

Key points:

- There is no limit for indoor or outdoor gatherings.
- You do not need to wear a face mask at a gathering, but it is encouraged.
- Workers and volunteers at a gathering must wear a face mask unless they are exempt.

#### **2. What does this mean for meetings in Freemasons Lodges?**

- A Lodge meeting is defined as a 'gathering' within the framework.
- There is no limit on the number of Brethren that attend a lodge meeting and there is no reference to any social distancing. There is no requirement to identify a 'defined space' or any limitation on attendance capacity.
- The use of a 'Covid Marshal' is no longer required.
- Scanning into a building is no longer required (QR Code) unless determined by the building owners, nor is there a need to maintain a 'Covid-19 Tracing Register'.
- The use of 'My Vaccine Pass' is no longer mandated, nor can a Lodge discriminate between those who are vaccinated and those who are not.

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#### **FREEMASONS NEW ZEALAND**

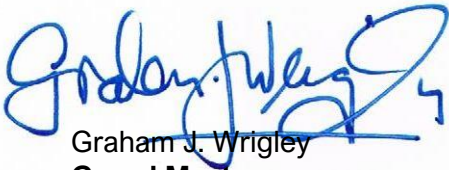
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- Ceremonies may continue as required with our ritual. As a caution, the Candidate should be informed that there will be close contact and touching during the ceremony.
- Visitors are accepted into a Lodge in the traditional manner.
- The wearing of a face mask is not mandatory, but Brethren can choose to wear one if they prefer.
- Continue with good hygiene practices including the provision of hand sanitisers, soap and clean towels in bathrooms.
- If unwell, do not attend Lodge.

### **3. The management of Refectory**

- Food and drink can be served in Refectory.
- Those who are handling food must wear a face mask.
- Workers (i.e. caterers) must wear a face mask unless they are exempt.
- There are no other restrictions.

These guidelines are effective immediately.



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