



13 March 2020

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE
UNDER THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND & WALES**

Dear Sir and Brother –

You will this morning have received a letter from the United Grand Lodge of England setting out its advice to members of the Craft following Her Majesty's Government's decision yesterday to move from Containment to Delay in respect of the current Coronavirus pandemic.

The Supreme Council met yesterday and considered the matter carefully. I am instructed to advise you of the following decisions that have been taken and of the recommendations that are hereby made until further notice:

1. The Supreme Council strongly advises those over the age of 65 not to attend Chapter meetings;
2. The Council further strongly advises those of any age who have underlying health issues not to attend Chapter meetings;
3. Major events (Installations, Higher Degrees Meetings, etc.) will not take place;
4. Chapters may continue to meet, although they may wish to consider holding 'streamlined' meetings, whereby a small number of members meet, carry out necessary business and close;
5. Chapters that normally meet at the Order's Headquarters in Duke Street St James's may continue to do so unless and until advised otherwise;
6. The Third Point is not to be conducted until further notice.

For your information, at Duke Street the following approach is being taken:

1. All members and staff continue to be requested to wash their hands on entering the building;
2. Additional cleaning measures continue to be carried out on a daily basis;
3. All administrative staff will be encouraged to work from home until further notice;
4. Non-masonic meetings will be virtual where possible.

This advice is subject to review on a daily basis and you will be informed promptly of any change.

Finally, the Supreme Council wishes to reassure all members of the Order that the health and welfare of the membership remains its primary concern. The Council hopes that all members, and not only Chapter Almoners, will take the opportunity to keep a particularly close eye on elderly and vulnerable members, their families and friends during this disruptive and difficult time.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Dr G R E Shilson 33°
Grand Secretary General H.:E.: