



# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch of Alberta

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Constituent Chapters  
Grand Chapter Officers  
Grand District Superintendents

## **TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL COMPANIONS OR READ IN OPEN CHAPTER**

Dear Companions:

Within this letter you will find “Rules Allowing Chapters to Meet in Person During Covid” prepared by Grand Chapter to assist your Chapter as to whether you want to return to “In Person” meetings or to continue with the Virtual format. There is enough information available from Alberta Health Service and the Governments for each Chapter to give the appropriate guidance as to whether “In Person” meeting can be resumed. The Grand Chapter is therefore shifting the decision-making process to the Chapter with the understanding that the basic rules for “In person” meetings are followed in conjunction with the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) issued by the Government of Alberta.

Fraternally yours,

*Jerry W. Kopp  
RE Grand Scribe E*



## **RULES ALLOWING CHAPTERS TO MEET IN PERSON DURING COVID**

It is nearly two years since this world-wide pandemic of COVID first began and there is still much uncertainty of how we return to “normal”. The last 22 months of leaving Chapters closed, has been out of an abundance of care and protection

to our members. We fully understand, the desire and impatience of members wanting to return to in-person meetings. However, doing so must be undertaken safely to the best of everyone involved.

We are going to give the local Chapters the decision-making authority as to whether their Chapter meets in person, or consider only meeting via Zoom or a hybrid. Chapters cannot be forced to meet. Before coming to a decision on whether your Chapter returns to in-person meetings, you need to wisely consider:

- Comfort level of your membership to return to in-person meeting and of their likely attendance
- Will you have enough Officers to open and close
- How you keep those not willing to return engaged
- Welfare of your members

What follows is the minimum requirements in order for Chapters to once again meet in person during COVID. There shall be no deviation from these rules without the express permission of the Grand Z and then only for justifiable cause. **No Exceptions.**

1. Chapters must follow the Restrictions Exemption Program as set out by Alberta Health and any changes to this program going forward. This is the easiest and safest way for Chapters to adopt. No other consideration to any other program until further notice. See attachment -- Alberta Health "Requirements for the Restrictions Exemption Program"
  - a. Follow any and all guidelines and procedures set-out by Alberta Health
  - b. Chapters are responsible to verify QR Codes, and keep record of attendance (Register)
2. Chapters to follow guidelines and procedures set-out by your local municipality. These may be in addition to those set-out by Alberta Health.
3. Follow all guidelines and procedures set-out by building owners (landlord), including ownership by Masonic related ownership (Temple Boards, Hall Companies etc.) that rent space to Chapters.
4. Adherence to any rules or amendments to these rules by Grand Chapter.
5. Chapters to ensure adequate supply of masks and hand sanitizer as well as sanitizing any furnishing or equipment used.
6. No one is allowed to attend a Chapter Meeting who:
  - a. Cannot produce a recognized Vaccine Record (QR code) or proof of a negative test taken within the prior 72 hours before meeting unless it be an original medical exemption letter
  - b. Travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days
  - c. Is currently required to self-quarantine
  - d. Has a fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath.
  - e. Have been in contact with a person who tested positive for COVID (currently)
7. Upon entering a building where a Chapter is meeting, each attendee to:
  - a. Wear a mask for duration of time in the building
  - b. Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres
  - c. Practice hand washing and use of hand sanitizer before and after attendance
8. After signing Register, member is required to go directly to a seat inside the Chapter Room and remain there until the meeting is over.
  - a. Chapters know who their members are, so no need to give pass
  - b. Do not form a triangle to share the word, but rather have it said by Z, H and J out loud or by all

9. Prohibited until further notice:

- a. Degree Work
- b. Food or Beverage of any kind

10. Chapters should Discourage from attending:

- a. Members that are high risk or living with someone that is
- b. Visiting by members belonging to other Chapters

11. During this unknown with COVID, Chapters need to:

- a. Be Flexible and Adapt
- b. Keep Membership Engaged with Education
- c. Keep in contact with Members and enquire as to how they are doing
- d. Discourage handshaking for the time being
- e. Consider doing a Hybrid meeting that would involve bringing members who are not comfortable in attending to attend via Zoom with a core group opening and closing Chapter. If you are interested in holding a Hybrid Meeting, please advise Grand Chapter and we will make some suggestions for consideration.