



PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



Provincial Circular No.218

To: Lodge Secretaries & Chapter Scribes E
Cc: Grand Officers
District Officers

1 December 2021

Dear Brother Secretary / Chapter Scribe E,

Covid Guidance - Update

The following information is provided in light of the current situation concerning Covid 19 and the revised Government guidance which is effective from today. I hope that it is helpful.

There have been a number of instances recently where members have reported testing positive for Covid 19 having attended Lodge/Chapter Meetings and/or other events.

It is of course down to every Lodge and Chapter to determine its own approach, but it is worth reiterating what are considered common sense personal measures to keep ourselves safe during the continuing pandemic and it is up to all of us to help prevent the spread of Covid 19 and to protect ourselves and others around us:

- If you do not feel comfortable attending a Meeting or event due to your health, vulnerability, or that of others, you must not feel compelled to do so. Your comfort and wellbeing are paramount, and it is a personal choice.
- If you feel ill in any way, do not attend Meetings or events. Not only is Covid 19 prevalent but it is clear that colds and influenza are in circulation and causing similar symptoms. By not attending a Meeting, if you are ill or symptomatic, it obviously prevents the spread of such things. But equally, your attendance may undermine the confidence in others from attending Meetings and moreover, put those who may be vulnerable due to underlying health conditions at risk.
- At Meetings avoid physical contact and maintain social as much as possible. This is equally relevant to the Meeting itself and to the Social Board that follows. Recent experience has demonstrated that precautions become more relaxed in the latter environment.
- Use hand sanitisers provided and consider having your own with you.
- It is recommended that face coverings should be worn at Masonic Meetings unless a person is exempt. The wearing of face coverings should not be discouraged nor should anyone wearing face coverings be made to feel uncomfortable in any way.

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- It is strongly recommended that you take a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending any Meeting as about one in three people infected by Covid 19 do not display any symptoms. This should be seen as an essential preparation for any occasion where others are present.

If, following a Meeting or event, you record a positive Lateral Flow Test, you should advise the Lodge/Chapter at the earliest opportunity.

Your fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Wildman." with a horizontal line underneath.

Chris Wildman, ProvGSec

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Holland".

Andrew Holland, ProvGSE