

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Free and Accepted Masons

State of New Jersey

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Statement on Coronavirus Epidemic March 8, 2020

To: The Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Worshipful Brothers, Officers and Members of all Constituent Lodges

The virus, first identified case in the city of Wuhan (China), has spread to more than 55 countries across the globe, including Japan and Nigeria. U.S. cases have been reported in multiple states such as Washington, California, Florida, New York City and New Jersey with six related deaths in Washington state.

We The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey are deeply concerned about the hourly and daily reports of the coronavirus epidemic. As of now, there are no changes in day to day operating procedures. We are closely monitoring the global and local efforts to contain the spread of the virus. As leaders, and mentors, it is critical that we the Prince Hall Family stay educated and informed about this virus including how it can be transmitted and its symptoms, as well as heighten preventive practices and measures we all should take during this epidemic.

It is my order that all Masonic Lodges begin to supply antibacterial soaps in all bathrooms in your building.

I ask and urge you to look in to purchasing stationary antibacterial dispensers around or near the entrance inside of your buildings.

Let us be vigilant, prepared, proactive and most importantly do not panic.

Similar to influenza, we are advised that the best ways to reduce the risk of getting sick and prevent the spread of COVID-19 are:

- **Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds;**
- **When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth or nose with a tissue and throw it away afterwards;**
- **Stay home if you are sick or begin to feel ill;**

~T.E.A.M.~

“Together Everyone Achieves More”

“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

- Consult your primary care physician and get a flu shot, if you have not already done so; and,
- Monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials if you live in or have recently returned from a country with COVID-19 cases.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak by:

- Making sure you have a supply of all essential medications for you and your family;
- Developing a child care plan if you or a family caregiver were to become sick;
- Reviewing your leave and telework policies and procedures at work;
- Making arrangements for how your family can manage a school closure; and,
- Planning now for the appropriate care of an ill family member and protecting yourself from becoming ill too.

“It is important for all of us to be vigilant, while also providing calm and steady leadership. Preparation and awareness are essential. Stay up to date on this evolving COVID-19 situation by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.”

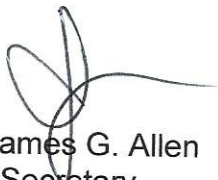
Take Due Notice Thereof, That It May Be Accordingly So Done.

Given under my hand and the private seal; of this Grand Lodge this Eighth day of March in year of our Lord 2020, in the year of Light 6020.



Most Worshipful Jeffrey Cordell Spann,
 90th, Most Worshipful Grand Master,
 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons, State of New Jersey

Attest:
 R.W. James G. Allen
 Grand Secretary




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