

## Ritual Guidelines during COVID-19

Note: These guidelines are only meant to assist Courts in observing the Social Distancing that is required until we can return to a more “normal” status within the State. If these guidelines are not followed remember that we will not be able to meet in our Lodge Buildings until such time as more restrictions are lifted. Please feel free to contact HL Nancy Coddington, Grand Lecturer or myself for any additional questions or concerns.

- All Courts MUST meet whatever guidelines are set by their respective Lodge buildings
- All Courts MUST observe all requirements set by the State for a “Gathering” following their County’s status – Baseline-Stay Home; Phase 1; or Phase 2
- Consider NOT using jewels during this time

### OPENING

- Officer chairs where side by side need to be adjusted to 6’ apart
  - Adjust to fit your Court – marching lines may get out of alignment some
- Taking up the Password
  - Refer to the letter dated August 28, 2020 from HL Dorothy Kippie, SRM (attached), page 2
  - Each Court should make allowances to the comfort of their members
  - DO NOT congregate in the entrance doorways
- RP and AP enter – using the South door – enter single file – as facing North keep 6’ distance form a pair and carry out their entrance as normal
- Officers entrance
  - Alternate North and South lines – entering through the South door or
  - Use both the North and South doors – keep 6’ distance at all times
  - You may need to make the square a bit smaller to allow for both lines as officers complete the trip around the Square
    - Marshals come together and “click” the staffs – step back an additional 4-5 feet to allow 6’ as RM comes to the Throne
  - When all are in line facing East – RP leads in giving the Sign
  - Carry out the escort of the RM and AM
    - Do not take the arm of either – RM & AM should follow Cond and AC
    - Keep 6’ distance at all times
- Taking up password – see above reference to SRM letter, “There will be no passwords taken during the opening of Court.”
- Conductress attend Altar – this should be ok – keeping 6’ distance – possibly consider approaching the Altar with a little more space
- The remainder of Opening should work

### CLOSING

- Comments from Opening should apply to Closing
- If jewels use is omitted – you can omit the jewel march

**MEMORIAL (Note: This is optional for the Courts to complete, at this time. If you delay until next year at your last meeting in May, then please note this in your minutes.)**

- When officers exit the room through the North door – keep 6’ distance and alternate as exiting or consider remaining in the room to lay out the Altar cloth
- Altar drape remains with the Prelate until inside the Court room (if they exited the room)
  - When time to enter
    - Enter by alternating again to form pairs 6’ apart facing South
    - Altar drape to be spread – do not come together
    - Continue through square keeping all at 6’ distance
- Escort of RM to Altar by Marshal East & West
  - Marshals will need to stop possibly a little East of the Square to keep 6’ from members

**INSTALLATION**

Notes: Consider holding a closed Installation and using Court Members for Installing Officers. The GRM and GRP may not be allowed to attend Installations.

**Uncrowning**

- Crown Bearer is not necessary – place a pedestal to have Crown placed on
- RP can present Sword to RM if they are from the same household
  - Or RP can wear gloves and resume 6’ immediately
- Use NO kneeling bench
- No RM should wear a train
- Attending Altar - same as Opening
- NO jewel march
- March out – officers should exit on their own in preparation for Installation
- Floral Arch - is being discouraged

**Installation**

- Prepare for Installation
  - Placement of chairs in “A”
    - If you use the “A” only the line officers should be seated there
    - All other members to be installed should sit on sidelines – 6’ distance – adjust to accommodate for the number being installed
  - Marshal & Aide – always keep 6’ distance at all times
    - If needed both can be women
- Obligation
  - Top 4 officers must come to the Altar – adjust to keep 6’ apart
    - Marshals may need to stand farther East to keep 6’ distance
- Carry out remainder of Installation keeping 6’ distance
- Proclamation
  - Marshal may need to stay on the floor in the West to adhere to 6’ distance
  - Adjust as needed to complete

- In the East – the gavel should be placed so Marshal can pick it up

### **Coronation**

Notes: If you have limited members to assist the only necessary members of the team are: Coronating Matron, Royal Matron and Sword Bearer. Sword Bearer should wear gloves to pass the Sword to the Coronating Matron. And consider not using a kneeling bench.

- No Honor Guard should be used
- Crown Bearer is not necessary
  - Place Crown on pedestal to be picked up by Coronating Matron
- Marshal East & West plus the Standard Bearer – keep 6' distance and make allowances to positioning as your Court room necessitates
- Coronating Matron escorted – keep 6' distance
- Coronating Matron should place the Crown on the RM's head and step back 6' immediately
- Sword presented to Coronating Matron
  - Sword Bearer must wear gloves and step back 6' immediately
- Coronating Matron request the RM to ascend the Throne on her own
- Following the RM introducing her Marshal – hand off the sword
  - If RM & RP are from the same household – carry out per ritual
  - Or the RP must wear gloves and keep distance
- Floral Arch is not encouraged

**Official Visits – we will address this at a later date.**