

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliated
District of Columbia, Incorporated

Anthony B. Corbitt (22)
RW Deputy Grand Master

Glenn N. Ruffin (29)
RW Senior Grand Warden

RW Junior Grand Warden

J. Raymond Murray (25)
C.C.F.C.



Quincy G. Gant (24)
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Standing firm on the principles and foundations of Masonry

Jeffrey Anderson (5)
RW Grand Treasurer

Arthur T. King (8)
RW Grand Secretary

Franklin McIntosh (29)
RW Grand Financial Secretary

David A. Washington, IV (29)
RW Grand Trustee, Chairman

To: The Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia

March 11, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Precautions and Jurisdictional Update

At approximately 6:00pm, March 11, 2020 Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a State of Emergency as the number of confirmed and "presumptively positive" cases of the virus in the District of Columbia continues to increase.

Although the number of cases in the District is relatively low, that does not translate to low awareness on our part. There is not much I can say regarding the virus except that which has already been transmitted through the various media sources and your personal job alerts. But as Most Worshipful Grand Master, I will say that I have personally been in contact with DC and Maryland Health officials.

Although health officials recommended postponing or canceling non-essential mass gatherings of 1000 people or more, the Executive Team of the MWPHGL, in conjunction with the Prince Hall Freemason and Eastern Star Charitable Foundation, being well advised and updated respecting the Masonic Temple and the Jurisdiction, has decided in light of the declaration from the office of the Mayor, to close the Masonic Temple through the end of the month. This closure will take affect Thursday March 12, 2020 at 4:00pm.

The Temple will be open every Monday to accommodate the Credit Union and others who made need to enter on a weekly basis. If within this time frame the State of Emergency is lifted or extended, the status of the Temple will be reevaluated.

My Deputy Chief of Staff, Dr. James Bridgers, who also serves as the Deputy Health Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services (Charles County) has advised as well as put together the below information:

Good afternoon, MWGM Quincy G. Gant.

In my current role as the Deputy Health Officer for one of the local jurisdictions initially 'hit' with the Coronavirus-19, I have been on multiple calls with Federal, state, and local authorities regarding how to keep the public safe from the transmission of the virus.

To help deter the spread of COVID-19 and keep our members exposure-free, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) recommends the following precautions:

- ***Avoid close contact with people who are sick.***
- ***Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.***
- ***Stay home if you are sick or have a fever.***
- ***Remind members who are sick that it is okay to stay home, if they are ill.***
- ***Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.***
- ***Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.***

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

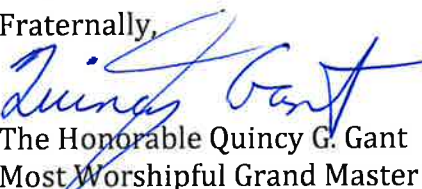
Get a flu shot, if you can receive the vaccination.

Call your primary care physician if you have additional questions or you suspect that are at risk based on your personal health history.

I will continue to provide additional information as the guidance continues to change weekly.

***Worshipful James Bridgers
Deputy Chief of Staff***

***PhD, MBA
Deputy Health Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Public Health Services***

Fraternally,

***The Honorable Quincy G. Gant
Most Worshipful Grand Master***

