



**MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELKS ASSOCIATION**

A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

United States of America
John C. Loftus, President
32729 Blackwater Road
Frankford, DE 19945
HP 302-537-4354 CP 302-430-8202
K9sgt2x@gmail.com
March 16, 2020

TO: All Lodges located in the State of Maryland

In the unlikely event that you are not following the development of the Governments response to the threat caused by the Coronavirus, I want to share with you the latest information at my disposal. Prior to preparing this document I have consulted with Paul D. Helsel, PGER, our Sponsor, and Corey Bradley, our Government Relations Chairman. Corey in turn reached out to his contacts in the Government to clarify how the current circumstances directly impact our Lodges. The collective conclusion is that the regulations issued by governmental authorities do in fact apply to our Lodges in the same manner that they apply to commercial establishments.

I have inserted below the information currently available from news sources:

Gov. Larry Hogan ordered the shutdown of all bars, restaurants, movie theaters and gyms in Maryland, effective at 5 p.m. March 16, 2020, to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The governor said the unprecedented steps will be disruptive and "may seem scary" but said that "we have never faced anything like this before."

"We should continue to expect the number of cases to dramatically and rapidly rise," the governor said. "This is going to be much harder, take much longer and be much worse than almost anyone is currently understanding."

Therefore each Lodge leadership must decide how best to comply with regulation as imposed by competent authority. It is the overwhelming concern for our members and our communities that is the driving force in this matter. In addition, failure to comply with the law could expose a Lodge to legal sanctions and the loss of their liquor license.

These restrictions apply directly to our food and beverage operations. Meetings of the BOD, Lodge meetings, etc. may be permissible under the law. Once again Lodge leadership needs to carefully review the law and make decisions accordingly.

It is of paramount importance that we be part of the solution, and not contribute to the problem. Please do all you can to keep yourselves and those around you as safe and healthy as humanly possible! "This too will pass" in time!

Fraternally yours,