

Health, Safety, and DeMolay in Washington



March 3, 2020

Your Jurisdictional DeMolay leadership has been closely monitoring developments regarding the global spread of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) and the constant flow of information that is being published. Our priority is the safety of our Members, Squires, Advisors, and guests. We are receiving guidance from the Washington State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to ensure all Chapters are protected as we manage the Coronavirus disease. As there is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, the best way to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

DeMolay has always been a brotherhood that prides itself on treating all equally. We shake hands with anyone and everyone. Bro-hugs are normal and interacting with each other is a must. **However, at this time and for the near future, we need to modify our ways.** Our comradeship will never change, and we can show that within our fraternity by simply using an elbow bump and a bro-nod. Your health and safety is our priority!

We are asking that you utilize healthy sanitizing practices at the buildings we rent, the facilities we use, including ensuring that all locations we visit to hold events and activities are complying with these safety measures.

In turn we are asking all those who attend DeMolay activities practice the following CDC recommendations:

1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
 4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, throw it the trash, and immediately wash your hands. If you're caught tissue-less then cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands, and then still wash your hands. It's common courtesy!
 5. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay at least 6ft away.
 6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
 7. Stay home when you are sick!
- For information about hand-washing, see [CDC's Handwashing web page](#)
 - These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. [CDC has specific guidance for travelers.](#)

As developments continue with the containment and/or spread of the Coronavirus, we will keep you inform of our response plans. Currently the virus is most active in King and Snohomish County, however that could quickly change. We encourage all of you to keep informed and avoid “the word on the street” and sensational news stories. This is not a time for over-reaction.

If necessary, we have many options when it comes to Chapter meetings, Region Conclaves, Installations, and local events. If members, adults, or visitors are sick, have a fever, or anyone is not feeling well, please encourage them to stay home. No member will be penalized if a Parent wants to keep their son at home. Currently, I see no reason to cancel events, but please be ready with a contingency plan if situations change. Please contact me with any questions at any time to discuss and assess any possible risk.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to secure the health and safety of all our people and remember to keep washing your hands!

Thank you!

Jeffery A. Brunson, Executive Officer
DeMolay in Washington