

HMTA RULES DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY (7/9/20)

COVID-19 is a devastating illness. It can be fatal or cause debilitating, long-lasting damage to lungs, heart, nervous system and other organs. It is highly contagious and can be transmitted by those who are completely asymptomatic. Even if you have a strong immune system and experience mild symptoms, you can unwittingly infect those who are more vulnerable. And if we let our guards down, the virus can suddenly re-emerge to wreak havoc on health and the economy. So we need to protect ourselves and others around us, especially friends and family. Therefore, please take this pandemic seriously. *As long as Honolulu is subject to any State, federal or municipal COVID-19 emergency order, those orders and the following rules shall apply to the Temple:*

Gatherings

1. No more than 25 in lodge room (upstairs) at any one time, and they must remain at least 6 ft apart.
2. No more than 5 in upstairs lobby at any one time, and they must stand at least 6 feet apart.
3. No more than 10 (a “cohort”) may sit or gather together in dining room at anyone time. Dining room tables must be joined together lengthwise so that those on opposite sides of the table are about 6 feet apart. Aisles between tables must be at least 6 feet wide. No intermingling between cohorts.
4. No more than 10 in library, 10 in kitchen or 10 in main lobby at any one time.
5. No more than 2 in the elevator at any one time.
6. Persons entering or occupying the Temple assume the risk of virus infection. No meetings shall be compulsory, attendance being strictly voluntary. Minors may enter only with parental consent.

Physical distancing: All persons “to the greatest extent reasonably possible”:

1. Must maintain at least 6 feet between each other at all times within the Temple and environs.
2. Shall refrain from touching each other (no hand shakes, fist bumps, etc.).
3. Shall engage in ritual work with the least amount of touching (Grand Lecturer to issue guidelines).
4. If permitted by the Grand Master, are urged to conduct meetings over the internet, after proper notice.

Physical condition: NO person may enter the Temple or lanai area if he or she:

1. Has persistent cough, congestion or fever (101°F or more), or is otherwise ill. Owners are urged to acquire a no-contact infrared thermometer (\$75 at Target) and check all who enter the Temple.
2. Has recovered from COVID-19, unless he or she has tested negative at least twice 3 days apart.
3. Has returned from out of State within the past 14 days.

Personal protective equipment:

1. All persons while in the Temple or environs MUST wear face coverings (nose and mouth) at all times except while eating or drinking.
2. All persons engaged in ritual work or other ceremonies which involve touching another person or touching an implement, rod, gavel, etc. must wear sanitary gloves, and must wash or sanitize hands after use.
3. Anyone preparing or serving food must wear sanitary gloves. Food *must* be dispensed by servers to minimize the number sharing food-serving equipment. Self-serve buffets are DISCOURAGED.
4. Each owner must provide hand sanitizing liquid or wipes, and have on hand a supply of masks for those who have none (may charge for their purchase).

Sanitizing. Each Owner MUST:

1. Sanitize ritual equipment, costumes, etc. before and after each use.
2. Have readily on hand appropriate sprays, wipes and other sanitizing chemicals (at least 70% alcohol content) for sanitizing.

PRESIDING OFFICERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLIANCE BY THEIR MEMBERS AND GUESTS. IF ANYONE IS INFECTED IN CONNECTION WITH TEMPLE USE, WE MAY HAVE TO SHUT DOWN AND DEEP CLEAN THE ENTIRE FACILITY. PLEASE COOPERATE. WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER!