



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
Knights of Columbus – 171 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln
Violations of Executive Orders and
RI Department of Health Regulations**

**IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE ORDER AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND COMPLIANCE ORDER**

Now comes the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”), as informed by the Chair (“Chair”) of the Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force (“Task Force”), and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-1-20 and 23-1-21, Executive Orders 20-32 and 20-67 (“Executive Orders”), and the RIDOH rules and regulations pertaining to Safe Activities By Covered Entities During the COVID-19 Emergency (216-RICR-50-15-7) (“Safe Regulations”), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Knights of Columbus (“Respondent”) is in violation of applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations, and that, with respect to bar requirements, Respondent is in violation of applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations, which violation requires immediate action to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

On March 9, 2020, Governor Gina M. Raimondo declared a state of emergency for the State of Rhode Island due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19. The Safe Regulations were promulgated as an emergency rule, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.10, based on a finding that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare required immediate promulgation of the rule,

specifically that “[i]n order to prevent further spread of COVID-19 as individuals begin to leave their homes more frequently and establishments begin to reopen, protective measures must be followed and implemented for individuals and establishments to resume operations so that the public’s health and welfare is protected.”

GROUND S FOR DETERMINATION OF VIOLATIONS

- I. Respondent is a social establishment, which maintains a bar area, located at 171 Jenckes Hill Road in Lincoln.
- II. Respondent is a covered entity, as defined in the Safe Regulations. As such, Respondent is required to comply with applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations.
- III. On or about September 11, 2020, a Task Force inspector met with club president Raymond Hedenskog (“President”) and conducted a Healthy Environment inspection of the Respondent. The inspector performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations and determined that Respondent scored a 2/11 for overall requirements, and a 0/6 for bar requirements.
- IV. Of note is the fact that the Respondent failed to ensure that if parties were seated at the bar, no staff were permitted to work in any areas behind the bar unless a physical, non-porous barrier of appropriate height is installed between the bar work areas and customers; that even with physical barriers between the bar work areas and customers, staff may only serve seated customers drinks and food through a gap or opening in the barrier that is no more than eight (8) inches in size; and/or that working bar areas, such as drink making stations or glassware storage, must be located at least six feet from the gaps.
- V. Additionally, the inspector observed that of the four (4) club volunteers present, three, including the President, were observed to not be wearing a cloth face covering.
- VI. Finally, the inspector noted that the President admitted to being unaware of the guidance and regulations and thought the club only needed to have a screening tool.

- VII. Based on the foregoing, and in the absence of any other information to rebut the allegations, the Director of RIDOH has determined that Respondent is in present violation of multiple provisions of applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations and that, with respect to the bar requirements, immediate action is necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of the public.

VIOLATIONS

The following violations stem from the September 11, 2020 inspection.

- I. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(3) of the Safe Regulations, which requires all individuals in an establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless physical distancing or an exception applies and requires establishments to deny entry to any employee/volunteer who is not otherwise exempt from the requirement or who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required. The inspector observed that of the four (4) club volunteers present, three, including the President, were observed to not be wearing a cloth face covering. None claimed an exception.
- II. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(1)(f) of the Safe Regulations, which requires the designation of a point of contact who is familiar with the applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations and who will work with RIDOH on testing, contact tracing, case investigation, isolation and quarantine follow up. Upon request, Respondent could not identify a point of contact who is familiar with the guidance and regulations.
- III. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(1) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to develop, maintain, and ensure compliance with a written plan for the safe operation of the establishment. Upon request, Respondent could not produce a written plan.
- IV. Respondent is in violation of Sections 7.4.1(A)(6) & (7) of the Safe Regulations, which require each covered entity to ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of their establishments once

per day and to maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning. Upon request, the Respondent could not produce the required records.

- V. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(2) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to implement and ensure compliance with screening of all individuals entering its establishment(s) at any time for any reason. Upon inquiry, the Respondent admitted that it did not conduct entry screening. The inspector also observed numerous patrons entering the establishment who were not screened. In addition, there were no posters visible at or near the entrance concerning entry screening.
- VI. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(4) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to ensure the placement of posters or signs at entry to its establishments educating any individual at the establishment concerning entry screening, required physical distancing, use of cloth face coverings, and other subjects as provided in guidance issued by RIDOH. The inspector observed that no posters were present at the entry to the establishment and concluded, therefore, that the Respondent failed to ensure the placement of required posters.
- VII. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(1)(a) of the Safe Regulations, which requires establishments to ensure compliance with a plan that includes procedures relative to, among other things, physical distancing at all times, to the extent feasible, and additional measures to be taken in high traffic, communal, or other areas where physical distancing is not feasible. As stated, above, Respondent admitted to not having the required plan and the inspector observed that there were no measures in place to ensure that physical distancing was maintained.
- VIII. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(6) of the Safe Regulations, which requires that:
 - a. when parties are seated at the bar, no staff are permitted to work in any areas behind the bar and all work areas behind the bar unless a physical, non-porous barrier of appropriate

- height and made of a material which complies with the interior finish requirements of the State Fire Safety Code, is installed between the bar work areas and customers; and
- b. even with physical barriers between bar work areas and customers, staff may only serve seated customers drinks and food through a gap or opening in the barrier that is no more than eight (8) inches in size; and,
 - c. working bar areas (e.g. drink making stations or glassware storage) must be located at least six (6) feet from these gaps. Drinks and/or food may not be passed to customers under, over, or around such barrier by staff behind the bar.

The inspector observed that the bar was open and that there was no physical, non-porous barrier installed between the bar work areas and the customers. (See Exhibit "A") The inspector also observed multiple standing patrons approach the bar and be served from an employee/volunteer from the bar work area.

- IX. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(3) of the Safe Regulations, which prohibits service to standing customers. As stated above, the inspector also observed multiple standing patrons approach the bar and be served from an employee/volunteer from the bar work area.
- X. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.5(A)(6) of the Safe Regulations, which requires that information must be collected from all visitors and other entrants who have interacted with others present on the site for a period of 15 minutes or more for the purposes of contact tracing. The information collected must be maintained for thirty (30) days. Upon request, the Respondent admitted that it did not maintain the required records.

**ORDER
IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE**

It is hereby **ORDERED**, that Respondent is to immediately close its bar/bar area until such time as violations are remedied to the satisfaction of the Director of RIDOH by fulfilling the conditions as set forth below:

- I. Respondent shall ensure that:
 - a. when parties are seated at the bar, no staff are permitted to work in any areas behind the bar and all work areas behind the bar unless a physical, non-porous barrier (i.e., plexiglass) of appropriate height and made of a material which complies with the interior finish requirements of the State Fire Safety Code is installed between the bar work areas and customers; and,
 - b. even with physical barriers between bar work areas and customers, staff may only serve seated customers drinks and food through a gap or opening in the barrier that is no more than eight (8) inches in size; and,
 - c. working bar areas (e.g. drink making stations or glassware storage) are located at least six (6) feet from these gaps and that drinks and/or food is not passed to customers under, over, or around such barrier by staff behind the bar.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE

It is further **ORDERED**, that on or before the tenth (10th) day from service of this Notice of Violation and Compliance Order, Respondent shall remedy the above cited violations and come into full compliance with applicable Executive Orders and Regulations, by fulfilling the conditions as set forth below:

- I. Respondent shall require all employees/volunteers in its establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless physical distancing can be continuously maintained, or an exception applies. In accordance with Section 7.4.1(A)(3)(a) of the Safe Regulations, Respondent shall deny access to its establishment to any employee/volunteer who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required by the Safe Regulations unless an exception applies.

- II. Respondent shall designate a point of contact who is familiar with applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations, and who will work with RIDOH on testing, contact tracing, case investigation, isolation and quarantine follow up.
- III. Respondent shall develop, maintain, and ensure compliance with a written plan for the safe operation of the establishment.
- IV. Respondent shall ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishment once per day and maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning.
- V. Respondent shall implement and ensure compliance with screening of all individuals entering its establishment(s) at any time for any reason.
- VI. Respondent shall ensure the placement of posters or signs at entry to its establishment educating any individual at the establishment concerning entry screening, required physical distancing, use of cloth face coverings, and other subjects as provided in guidance issued by RIDOH.
- VII. Respondent shall ensure compliance with its plan for safe operation, required pursuant to Section 7.4.1(A)(1) of the Safe Regulations, including compliance with, among other things, procedures consistent with the Safe Regulations relative to physical distancing at all times, to the extent feasible, and additional measures to be taken in high traffic, communal, or other areas where physical distancing is not feasible.
- VIII. Respondent shall ensure that service is made only to seated customers and that no service to standing customers occurs.
- IX. Respondent shall ensure that information be collected from all visitors and other entrants who have interacted with others present on site for a period of 15-minutes or more solely for the purposes of contact tracing.

With respect to the Notice of Compliance, a written request for a hearing may be filed within ten (10) days of this notice.

Failure to comply with this ORDER may result in the imposition of civil penalties and/or any other action authorized by applicable law or regulation.

Entered this 16th day of September 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Alexander-Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "A".

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director
Rhode Island Department of Health
Cannon Building, Rm. 401
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 0290

EXHIBIT A



