

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING
BRANCH PROTOCOLS FOR MINIMIZING COVID-19 LIABILITY**

1. The branches are required to strictly observe corporate formalities, such as annual election of officers and keeping corporate minutes in a timely and orderly manner.

This is really important because, if these formalities aren't observed, a claimant could possibly "pierce the corporate veil" and go after individuals and State SIR.

2. The branches are urged to encourage all branch members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to help those branch members who need assistance in finding vaccination centers and getting vaccinated.

We have heard stories about SIR members not knowing where to get vaccinated or driving long distances for their shots even though local vaccination was offered. For example, one Branch 1 member (San Mateo) drove to Fresno area, even though information on local vaccinations was available.

3. Beginning May 1, 2021 and until further notice to the contrary, branches shall require branch *members, visiting SIR members from other branches, guest speakers, guests, and spouses/significant others ("Attendees")* to be fully vaccinated (2 shots, if required) as a condition of being allowed to attend branch activities *which are conducted wholly or partially indoors*. In the alternative, unvaccinated Attendees can attend such activities if they provide *proof of a negative COVID-19 test administered within 3 days prior to an event they want to attend*.

Vaccinations are the most effective protections against serious illness, hospitalization, and death from the COVID virus, even the Delta variant. Pfizer vaccine received full approval from FDA on Monday. Full approval of the Moderna vaccine expected in the next few weeks. No longer any excuse for not getting vaccinated.

Activities involving indoor components only. Not just luncheons. For example, indoor activities could include a SIR sponsored golf tournament with a indoor meeting or dinner afterwards.

The vaccination requirement applies to members, visiting SIR members from other branches, guest speakers, guests, spouses or significant others attending indoor branch activities.

Alternative: Proof of negative test within 3 days of event. Third party tests or self-administered tests are acceptable.

- 4.** To ensure compliance with the requirements of item 3, branches shall require Attendees to show the original, a copy, or photo (in hardcopy or via a phone) of their vaccination record cards or test result documentation.

Why proof? Vaccination cards are the best form of proof, and they are easy to keep on your phone or in your wallet. The California digital COVID records are also easily available online. Universities, sporting events, and all SF restaurants and bars have required proof of vaccination plus an increasing number of employers.

- 5.** Branches shall maintain an updated list of members who have submitted proof of vaccination and use it to check them in for branch activities involving any indoor components. Branches need not require members who are on the vaccinated list to show proof of vaccination thereafter.

Just for convenience and also a recordkeeping requirement should an issue arise as to whether someone was vaccinated.

6. Branches shall require all Attendees participating in SIR activities to comply with all then-current state and county requirements related to COVID-19 protection, such as wearing masks and social distancing.

Important to stay up to date on current county health dept. requirements. These requirements are constantly changing. Masks are now required indoors in some counties, even if you are vaccinated, except when actively eating.

7. Branches shall require all Attendees attending SIR indoor or outdoor activities, to execute the attached waiver prior to allowing a member to attend such activities. Such waiver need only be executed once by a member, and the branch shall maintain the originals of such executed waivers for inspection by State SIR representatives.

These waivers may help protect SIR against lawsuits. There is a line of cases in CA stating they apply to persons claiming through the person who signed the waiver.