

Guidelines for Funerals during Covid-19

Activity: Covid 19: Funeral	
Assessment undertaken by: Kate Smith (all versions)	Assessment seconded by: Nigel Reid (v4)
Date: 29.03.21	Review date: As and when Government advice/ restrictions change (to be checked weekly by Venue Manager)
Person responsible for implementing: Kate Smith	Person responsible for review: Kate Smith

For funerals held during the Covid-19 period, we ask that the following guidance is followed:

Up to date Government guidance on managing a funeral can be found [here](#).

1.1 Communication with the bereaved

- Any interaction with the bereaved should be done safely; this may mean by telephone or video link. It is important not to share documents, books, photos etc (physical documents due to infection risk. Any electronic files containing personal information should be shared in line with our IT Security Policy).
- If meeting in person is permitted by current guidance, Government guidance and legislation should be adhered to. Please visit www.gov.uk for current guidance.

1.2 Guests

- Government guidance surrounding the number of people present is to be strictly observed. The number allowed to attend can be found in the Government guidance (link above).
- Everyone in attendance should wear a face covering with the exception of the minister.
- Guidance on who can attend can also be found in the government guidance.
- Guests from different households should travel to and from the funeral using their own transport. If this is not possible, guidance should be followed on travelling with those from outside of your household (found on link above).
- A wake may be held after the funeral service if permitted by current guidance. Number able to attend can also be found in the government guidance. Please note, this may be a different number than the number allowed to attend a funeral service.

1.3 Social Distancing

- Apart from those who live in the same household, social distancing should be observed. We are continuing to maintain the distance of 2 metres.

1.4 Hygiene

- Singing inside during the service is not allowed as this may encourage droplet and aerosol spread.
- All present should sanitise their hands upon arrival and prior to leaving the building.
- If Bibles are to be used, please ask those who used them to place them on the stage area after the service where they will be quarantined for 72 hours.
- If Orders of service are to be used, they should be placed on seats prior to the service, and either taken home or disposed of after the service. If someone attending is from a household where someone is showing symptoms or is legally required to self-isolate, the orders of service will be kept in a sealed bag for 72 hours prior to disposal.

1.5 Cleaning

- The building should be cleaned before and after the ceremony following the guidance laid out in our Cleaning Schedule.

* We also ask that the principles contained within our Return to Worship Risk Assessment are followed. *

Updates and Additions

v2, July 2020

- Addition: Link to Government guidance on 'Managing a Funeral'
- Update: Guests: Number of people who can attend.
- Update: Guests: Who can attend
- Update: Social distancing: Continuing distance of 2 metres

v3, August 2020

- Addition: Guests: Face coverings

v4, 29th March 2021 (approved by Church Council 08/04/21)

- Table at top of page added to include details of risk assessment seconder, reviewer etc
- Each section and subsection has been numbered
- Permitted from date removed
- 1.1b has been updated to reflect current guidance
- 1.2d has been updated to reflect current guidance
- 1.2e has been updated to reflect current guidance
- 1.4a 'advised' updated to 'allowed'; specific of 'inside' added (outdoor singing is allowed, following specific guidance)
- 1.4d addition of 'or is legally required to self-isolate'
- 1.5a 'Return to Work Risk Assessment' changed to 'Cleaning Schedule'
- Asterisked point at bottom updated from 'Return to Work' to 'Return to Worship'