

Guidance for Funeral Arrangements

During Act of Committal at the
graveside or crematorium



- After 19 July 2021, you no longer need to enforce a social distance of two metres (one metre plus mitigations) between households. You should, however, still encourage as much space between mourners as possible and ensure there is ventilation in place.
- Those who attend should be encouraged to wear a face covering unless exempt under the regulations.
- Mourners should try to avoid any direct face-to-face or physical contact.
- Venue managers should ensure that handwashing facilities, with soap, hot water and hand sanitiser, are available and clearly signposted.
- Regular cleaning will also need to take place.
- Mourners in attendance should follow the general advice on hand hygiene and preventing the spread of infection:
 - Leave church doors open prior to service.
 - All mourners to wash or sanitise their hands on arrival at the venue.
 - Display handwashing posters in toilet areas.
 - Provision of tissues for all mourners and bin-bag-lined bins to dispose of waste safely.
 - Before and after each service, clean and disinfect the area in which the service has taken place, as well as frequently-touched objects and surfaces, using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
- Any mourner who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, loss of taste and smell or a high temperature) should not attend the funeral as they pose a risk to others; remote participation should be considered.
- Mourners who are self-isolating for 10 days due to someone in their household being unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 but who are not symptomatic themselves should be facilitated to attend the funeral in person should they wish to do so, with processes put in place to minimise the risk of transmission.
- Mourners who are clinically vulnerable or in a vulnerable group should also be facilitated to attend, with processes put in place to minimise the risk of transmission.
- In many situations, the household members of the deceased person will be the next of kin; they may be having to self-isolate in line with household guidance. Where the funeral is scheduled to take place before the period of household isolation has been completed (10 days from the first case in that household), there should be no mixing between mourners who are self-isolating and those who are not.
- All waste, including used tissues, and masks if used, should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. It should be put in a safe place for 72 hours before being moved to for general waste disposal.
- If possible, a one-way system should be in place with a separate entrance and exit provided.

For further advice, please refer to the government guidance for [arranging or attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#).