

Guidance for Funeral Arrangements During Act of Committal at the Graveside or Crematorium

Those organising a funeral should adhere to the following:

- Restrict the number of mourners who attend so that a safe distance of at least two metres (three steps) can be maintained between individuals (specify a maximum).
- Only members of the person's household or close family members should attend.
- If the deceased has neither household or family members in attendance, then it is possible for a modest number of friends to attend.
- At no point should mourners mix closer than two metres apart from each other.
- Mourners should follow the advice on social distancing when travelling to and from the funeral gathering.
- Mourners should avoid any direct face-to-face or physical contact – for example, hugging each other – unless they are part of the same household, that is, they have already been living in the same house as each other.
- 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 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.
- Mourners who are unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), or who are part of a household with possible COVID-19 infection, should not attend any gatherings.
- 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 (14 days from the first case in that household), there should be no mixing between mourners who are self-isolating and those who are not.
- Mourners who are symptomatic should not attend in any circumstance.
- 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.