

Funerals and Visitations During the COVID-19 Situation



Everyone has a role in keeping the community healthy, and that includes gatherings of family and friends. Take simple steps to support a healthy work environment and community. These are important every day, but especially when preventing the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

Families and funeral home operators should consider modifying traditional plans for gatherings to remember loved ones. Some options include:

- Hold a smaller service for immediate family.
- Webcast, livestream, or record the service on video, which could then be shared with whomever the family deems appropriate.
- If the immediate family holds a service now, plan a larger follow-up memorial gathering later after restrictions are lifted.
- Postpone the service until restrictions are lifted.
- Posting health guidelines for guests entering chapels.
- Post signs to hand washing sinks with provided soap and paper towels.
- Provide tissues and hand sanitizer where people gather and at the entrance to the building.
- Consider scheduling small groups with the funeral director. This will allow small groups to visit and disperse.
- Practice social distancing as much as possible (stay six feet away from other people).
- Keep door and windows open as much as possible to allow ventilation.

Some state and local officials are placing restrictions on public gatherings. If your city or state has issued more stringent rules about mass gatherings, those restrictions take precedence. Whatever funeral organizers choose, consider incorporating some level of social distancing and personal health and hygiene controls. As with any gathering place, funeral home operators should consider enhanced cleaning and disinfection of frequently contacted surfaces. For more information, visit <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/how-do-i-prevent.php>.

Source of information is the National Funeral Directors Association
<https://www.nfda.org/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/funerals-and-visitations>

For more information: www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus

Updated 3/20/2020

