

Coronavirus update

Below is the current guidance taken from the Government website:

Funerals

Funerals are allowed with strict limits on attendance, and must only take place in COVID-19 secure venues or in public outdoor spaces unless in exceptional circumstances.

Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people. Linked religious, belief-based or commemorative events, such as stone settings and ash scatterings can also continue with up to 6 people in attendance. Anyone working is not counted in these limits. Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble.

I check the Government website at least once a week to check whether there are any updates to the current guidance.

We require a risk assessment and list of mourners from the undertaker for every funeral that takes place. This has been in place since April 2020.

I have been unable to find any national guidance concerning the time period for someone dying from Coronavirus and when the funeral can take place. West Suffolk Crematorium's policy is they wait 14 days before allowing the service and cremation to take place. As I do not believe we have a policy in place should we follow WSC and wait 14 days from the date of death before we allow the funeral to take place?

One possible exception to the 14-day Coronavirus rule is Muslim burials and these usually take place within 24 hours of death except in the case of a person killed in battle or when foul play is suspected. We do have 2 PPE coverall suits which could be used if necessary.

We have 2 burials booked in this month and both are Coronavirus deaths. Both funerals are taking place after the 14 days have passed since the deaths. Nick and I have liaised and at the funerals he will wear a face mask, keep a safe distance from and not touch the coffin and keep a safe distance from mourners. He also has hand sanitiser which he will use as soon as the funeral is over.