

- Funeral Directors must ensure that all hard surfaces are cleaned before and after the viewing;
- Hand hygiene by all those in attendance should be carried out both before and after a viewing.

54.0 In keeping with Stay at home guidance¹³, the following **should not** attend a viewing:

- a. those that have had a positive COVID-19 result and are therefore self-isolating;
- b. people who had been advised to self-isolate on the advice of the contact tracing system;
- c. people who are COVID-19 symptomatic or awaiting a COVID-19 test result; and
- d. people living in households during the past 10 days with someone who has symptoms that may be caused by COVID-19.

Those clinically extremely vulnerable should consider whether they can attend safely.

55.0 Appropriate PPE for Funeral Director staff, such as wearing disposable gloves and a face mask in a viewing area, can be considered to further mitigate infection risk to staff from visitors.

Funeral Services and committals

56.0 **Funeral services are not permitted at private dwellings and** should only take place in a place of worship, a funeral home, the City of Belfast Crematorium or at the burial ground.

¹³ Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

- 57.0 **The numbers attending a funeral service or committal will be determined by how many people the venue or outdoor space can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place. This will be based on a risk assessment and the measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.** A risk assessment is required for indoor venues if more than 15 are expected to attend (places of worship or funeral homes) and for outdoor venues if more than 30 are expected to attend.
- 58.0 The funeral service venue operator must ensure that the risk assessment identifies and evaluates the risk of infection, contamination or transmission of the virus and the reasonable measures needed to avoid, mitigate or eliminate those risks. Funeral Directors should liaise with the venue operator to understand any relevant issues when making the funeral arrangements at a particular venue.
- 59.0 Funeral Directors should communicate with the family when making the arrangements to ensure they are aware of the numbers permitted to attend and the associated measures in place to reduce the risk of infection, contamination or transmission.
- 60.0 **Face coverings are mandatory when entering, leaving and throughout the funeral service in a place of worship or funeral home.**
- 61.0 All funeral venues (including places of worship and funeral homes) should ensure that doors remain open throughout the funeral service to allow adequate ventilation.
- 62.0 Where possible, **funeral services should be streamed online** for the benefit of those not able to attend the service.

Attending funeral services and committals

- 63.0 Families, mourners, and funeral staff in attendance at funerals and committals should ensure, and take individual responsibility, to adhere to and practice the recommended social distancing measures. To mitigate against the risk of transmission of infection within the community the following is **recommended**:
- ensure a distance of at least 2 metres is maintained from each other at the committal venue at all times (except where mourners are from the same household);
 - face coverings are worn;
 - avoid touching the face and follow good hand hygiene; and
 - avoid physical interactions including shaking hands and hugging.
- 64.0 Families and mourners should follow the advice on social distancing when travelling to and from the funeral. Wherever possible, **mourners are encouraged to travel in a car by themselves or only with people from their household.**
- 65.0 Limousines may be used to transport mourners. Up to 6 people (not including children aged 12 or under) from no more than 2 households can travel together in the limousine and must wearing a face covering when inside the vehicle. Windows should remain open when the vehicle is occupied.
- 66.0 Any mourner who has **tested positive for COVID-19, or who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 disease should not** attend a funeral or committal as they pose a significant risk to others.
- 67.0 It is strongly recommended that **anyone who is self-isolating**; due to someone in their household being unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, or on the advice of the contact tracing service or the StopCOVID NI app, **should attend a funeral remotely** to reduce the risk of transmission to other mourners.

- 68.0 However, if after careful consideration of the risk, they choose to attend in person, they may do so as long as they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, and should:
- advise the Funeral Directors and other mourners that they are self-isolating;
 - at all times, maintain a strict 2 metre social distance;
 - wear a face covering;
 - use their own transport to the funeral; and
 - return immediately to the place they are self-isolating.

69.0 People who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should attend a funeral remotely, where this is possible. If they do choose to attend in person**, other mourners should be advised that a clinically extremely vulnerable person(s) is attending, to be respectful of the need to avoid close contact at any point, and to adhere to the 2 metre social distancing measures at all times. The clinically extremely vulnerable person should wear a face covering, use their own transport and keep social interactions low.

70.0 People arriving in Northern Ireland from non-green list countries must quarantine for a period of 10 days. They are permitted to leave quarantine to attend a funeral of a household member, a close family member or a friend (only if either a household member or close family member are in attendance at the funeral). Further details can be found [here](#).

71.0 Coffin lifts are permitted. Pallbearers must wear a face covering when the coffin lift is indoors.

Pre/Post Funeral Gatherings

73.0 Pre/Post funeral gatherings are permitted. The numbers allowed to attend will be determined by the size of the particular venue and subject to a risk assessment by the venue operator. Additional restrictions may be applicable to licenced or

unlicensed premises. Hugging and handshakes with family and friends are not recommended at funerals or pre/post funeral gatherings.