

COVID-19 & Warren Hill Crematorium

What families can expect at funerals during the Coronavirus Emergency

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 have made a number of changes to how funerals can be carried out at this time.

Who can attend:

- i. a member of the person's household,
- ii. a close family member, or
- iii. if no-one within sub-paragraphs (i) or (ii) are attending, a friend;

Exceptions have been made to the stay at home advice currently in place to allow families and friends to attend funerals and say goodbye to loved ones, including those who are self-isolating or who have been defined as extremely clinically vulnerable, should they wish to, as follows:

- those who have symptoms of Coronavirus COVID-19 must not attend and must stay at home
- limiting the numbers in attendance to as low as possible to ensure safe social distancing. Numbers can be determined by the size and circumstance of the venue (see below)
- people who are extremely clinically vulnerable (shielded) can attend with measures put in place to reduce their risk
- people self-isolating because someone in their household is ill may attend if they do not have symptoms themselves

These exceptions make it more important than ever that the controls that we have in place at Warren Hill are complied with.

Households **must maintain 2-metre social distancing** on the site at all times from arrival in the car park to departure from the site, this includes in the car parks and around the floral tributes. Persons from the same household can travel together but there should be no mixing of households for travel purposes.

To ensure social distancing within chapels, the **maximum number of people allowed in each chapel is 18** and the seating is laid out for this number in each chapel. Seats are not allowed to be moved.

At present we **are unable to allow anyone to wait in the foyers**. We also cannot allow people to stand in the foyers or outside the chapel during services.

Currently we **are unable to allow families to bear coffins** into the chapel or allow mourners to put anything on the coffin once it is in the chapel. At present however we do allow the curtains to remain open at the end of the service if the family wish.

Under the Regulations the **Crematorium is closed for everything except funerals**.

We appreciate that suffering a bereavement is difficult at the best of times and the current situation is compounding the difficulty of the bereavement process. Our aim is to ensure that bereaved people are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect, while protecting individuals, communities and those in the funeral industry from the risk of infection.

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