

## COVID-19

### Statement from representatives of the British funeral sector (The National Association of Funeral Directors, The National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, The Cremation Society and the Association of Private Cemeteries and Crematoria)

The Government has today (17 March 2020) met with representative bodies from the funeral sector regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. Requests for support with access to equipment that is in scarce supply, and the need for additional advice and support as the situation develops, were taken on board. As a result of that meeting, the signatories to this statement have decided to offer the following advice.

The key outcome is that funerals should continue, as normally as possible, for now, but take into account all of the guidelines issued by government for minimising the risk of transmission. This includes the need to protect at-risk groups, to avoid large gatherings of people, for good hand hygiene and the avoidance of unnecessary physical contact. This is not only for the benefit of those attending funerals, it also supports the urgent need to protect funeral home, crematorium and cemetery employees, who need to remain healthy and able to support families at this critical time.

In consultation with their local crematoria and cemeteries, Funeral homes and families should assess each funeral individually and consider whether it might mean smaller numbers of people and organising a celebration of life or memorial service planned for a later date. Alternatives such as webcasting may enable other mourners to participate. This is a fast evolving situation and guidance may well need to change again in the near future. The focus for day-to-day communication will be local resilience forums, with which the funeral sector is working closely, across the country.

Much of the Government's day-to-day focus for communication will be local resilience forums and you are urged to make contact with your local resilience forum to ensure there is a good flow of information coming out to you that is relevant to your local area.

#### Proposed legislation

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has identified that to effectively manage a coronavirus outbreak in the UK, they need to introduce new fast-tracked legislation. This will provide them with the legal measures to be able to implement their phased response. Details of the proposed legislation, which will be heard in Parliament on Thursday, can be seen by [following this link](#)

In the meantime, please stay safe and continue to follow Government guidelines.



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**The Cremation Society**

