

## FUNERALS (COVID-19)

This is updated guidance for those attending funerals under the Covid-19 pandemic.

The guidance now allows for more people to attend funerals but strict social distancing must be adhered to at all times.

**People attending a funeral have to follow the government social distancing rules and stay 6ft (2 meters or 3 steps) away from each other at all times.**

This means physical comforting (hugging, kissing) is not allowed. This is extremely heartbreaking and difficult but it will save lives so everyone should follow these rules.

**If you have symptoms of Coronavirus you must not attend the service to prevent transmission.**

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately self-isolate at home for at least 7 days and [request a test online, or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access.](#)

### Who can attend a funeral service?

If a close family member, a friend or a member of the same household dies you may attend the funeral. Only a modest number - **30 people or less** – may enter a church or a place of worship. Outdoor spaces must also limit their capacity to 30 people to prevent community transmission.

People who are self-isolating due to an outbreak of Covid-19 in their support bubble, or who have been alerted through a [Test and Trace](#) service may still attend **if they do not have symptoms**.

Mourners who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable should also be facilitated to attend, **with processes put in place to minimise the risk of transmission**.

Overnight stays away from the home **are also permitted**, though it is advised this should only be with your own household or support bubble, or with members of one other household (in which case social distancing should be maintained).

Mourners **coming from outside England** are still expected to self-isolate for 14 days. However, they are permitted to leave self-isolation on compassionate grounds to attend the funeral, but they are obligated to return to self-isolation immediately after.

Pre-funeral and post-funeral ceremonies may be held in line with the guidance on [Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#). However, families may consider deferring a celebration or memorial service, until further social restrictions are lifted and at a time when attendance can take place safely.

For mourners with symptoms, remote participation should be considered, for example via live streaming.

If you are religious and feel it is against the faith of your loved one to be cremated, contact your local authority and refer to the amendment in the government's emergency bill that gives those from Muslim, Jewish and other faiths the right to not be cremated if they die from Covid-19.

Find your local council using this website <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>