

COVID-19

UPDATE

In recent COVID email briefings to members we've covered the following topics. All of the information referred to can also be found at nafdcovid19.org.uk.

Updated guidance released in England

Updated guidance on managing a funeral during COVID-19 was published in late October by Public Health England.

Following the creation of an exemption from being prosecuted for breaking isolation for close family attending a funeral, the NAFD welcomed the guidance's strong language dissuading COVID-positive or symptomatic people from attending in person and its detailed advice on how to safely and sensitively manage a request by a COVID-positive close family member to attend.

Updated guidance released in Northern Ireland

Updated guidance was also published, by the Department of Health Northern Ireland, to reflect tighter restrictions on funerals which came into force at the start of the nation's four-week 'circuit-breaker' lockdown on 16 October.

The restrictions are:-

- funeral services are restricted to a maximum number of 25 in places of worship or funeral homes. This includes the clergy/officiant;

- funeral services are not permitted in private homes;
- twenty-five also permitted at committal at graveside or crematorium;
- no pre/post funeral gatherings are permitted – therefore, no wakes or related ceremonies allowed.

Tighter restrictions during Wales 'firebreak' lockdown

During the 'firebreak' lockdown (23 October - 09 November) the number permitted to attend a funeral in Wales will be dependent on venue size, with risk assessment reflecting social distancing measures.

Mourners must be invited by the funeral organiser.

The cap of up to 30 will no longer exist for outdoor services, with numbers defined by the ability to socially distance.

Wakes, receptions and other events are not permitted.

New five-tier system begins in Scotland

A new five-tier restrictions framework came into force in Scotland in October. Previous funeral restrictions in Scotland remain in place (funeral attendance capped at 20, where physical distancing permits) in Tiers 1 and above.

For any area in Tier 0, funeral attendance will be capped at 50 people.

HELP US ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON COVID-19 PLANNING FOR THE WINTER

Being able to provide data and views from the funeral sector has proven really important during COVID in helping to shape Government thinking. We would be grateful if you could complete the questions in the survey link below to help us understand the situation in your local area. Your views will be fed into discussions with the Cabinet Office and Ministry of Justice.

The survey is anonymous and open to the entire profession to help the Government put the best possible plans in place but, as an NAFD member, if you would like advice or support on any subject in this survey, please add your name and details to the response and we will follow up with you directly.

Survey link: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C19211020