

## *Annex*

### **Guidance to members of the public on the impact of coronavirus restrictions on funerals**

Funerals can be a distressing experience, and the impact of coronavirus is making it even more difficult to make practical arrangements. This guidance has been prepared to help people at this very difficult time.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 place new, temporary restrictions on gatherings and the movement of people in Wales.

This has been done to reduce the spread of coronavirus, save lives and protect the Welsh NHS. The new regulations require people to stay at home.

They do allow people to leave home attend a funeral if:

- you are the person organising the funeral,
- you have been invited to the funeral, or
- you are the carer of a person who is attending the funeral (either because they are the organiser or they have been invited).

Everyone attending a funeral – whether at a crematorium, place of worship or cemetery – should take all reasonable measures to stay 2 metres away from someone they don't live with or care for. This will help to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Those responsible for running the crematorium, place of worship or cemetery will make arrangements to maintain this 2 metre rule.

The need to maintain 2 metres between people means the number of people who will be able to attend a funeral will be limited.

The maximum number who will be able to attend a funeral will be clearly communicated to you before the funeral takes place. To help protect against the spread of coronavirus, please could funerals be by invitation only.

The death of anyone close to you is a very distressing and sad event. But at this time, we ask you to only attend funerals of your closest family and friends and only if you have been invited. Please do not attend a funeral if it would involve extensive travel.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus – a high temperature or a new, persistent cough – or are self-isolating you should not attend. People who are shielding should also not attend.

Funerals can be broadcast and livestreamed so people who cannot be physically present can attend the ceremony virtually. In addition, books of condolence can be opened online and other tributes paid through electronic communications or social media.

Family and friends may also want to consider holding a memorial service or celebration of life once the coronavirus pandemic is over.