



# Coronavirus Pandemic



## Step 3 easing of lockdown in England

The Government has announced that their imposed limit of 30 attendees at a funeral will end on 17<sup>th</sup> May, and will be replaced by a maximum number that the venue can support. Currently, social distancing measures will remain in place, although people will be allowed to make informed, personal decisions on close contact, such as hugging, with their friends and family.

The FBCA and the ICCM advise members to:

- Carry out a risk assessment for your venue(s). More information on this legal requirement can be found here - [Risk assessment - Working safely during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/).
- Work out the capacity of your chapel or cemetery, based on current social distancing guidance (this will need to be reviewed as and when revised social distancing guidance comes from government), and on considerations such as pinch points, flow through the site, available staff etc.
- Advise local funeral directors of the maximum number of attendees your venues can accept, and put this information on your website so members of the public can view it.
- Consider placing all chairs back in their usual positions, and reopening all pews. Mourners will then be able to choose to sit in their household or support bubbles, or individually, as they feel appropriate. Members should not police how mourners choose to sit. Risk assessments may dictate alternative action is required if a mourner who is Covid positive or extremely clinically vulnerable is planning to attend eg a number of seats placed 2m apart.
- Provide signage at chapel/cemetery entrances and around the venue about the need to maintain social distancing. For indoor venues place signage at entrances and around the venue to request the wearing of face coverings.
- Consider how best to manage the flow of people to minimise contact between different groups, eg through the use of one-way systems.
- Continue to provide handwashing facilities/hand sanitiser and signpost the locations to these.
- Ensure that any toilet facilities are used safely, ie through signs limiting the number of people using the facilities at the same time, more frequent inspection and cleaning.
- Make reasonable efforts to collect details for Test and Trace purposes. Provide QR codes at multiple points around the venue so mourners can check in using the NHS app on their mobile phone. Provide a signing in sheet for each service for those mourners who are unable to use the QR code to check in, and keep the details for 21 days. QR codes can be generated here - [Create a coronavirus NHS QR code for your venue - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-a-coronavirus-nhs-qr-code-for-your-venue).

- Take account of any extra time required to clean and disinfect the venue between services due to a larger number of mourners (if appropriate). This may require a larger gap between services, possibly resulting in fewer services each day. Members should keep the demand for services under review, and provide extra services where required and where possible.
- Continue to accept forms electronically until advised otherwise.

**FBCA/ICCM**