

Funeral Homes Recommendations regarding COVID-19

Coronaviruses such as COVID-19 are spread mainly from person-to-person through close contact, for example, in a household, workplace or health care settings.

However, there are **everyday actions** that can help prevent the spread of germs. These steps have a significant role in reducing the exposure to the virus and protecting your health and the health of others:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, face, nose, mouth
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid non-essential gatherings
- Avoid common greetings such as hand-shakes'
- Avoid crowded places
- Limiting contact with people at higher risks or those who are in poor health
- Keeping a distance of at least 2 arms-length (approximately 2 metres) from others

There are **risk mitigation strategies** that should be considered:

- Reducing the number of participants
- Providing packaged refreshments instead of a buffet
- Increase access to hand wash stations or ABHS (alcohol based hand sanitizer)
- Promoting personal protective practices (e.g. posting flyers with hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, staying home if ill)
- Offering virtual-live streamed services/activities
- Remind families/visitors to stay home if ill and to practice social distancing

Adhere to social distancing when booking appointments/visitation times:

- Spacing out appointments/visitation times. Spacing out visitations will ensure enough time for environmental cleaning between groups.
- Consider limiting the number of visitors during visitation times.

Consider screening of visitors prior to appointments:

- Ask visitors to delay/postpone their visit if travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.
- Ask people if they are ill with respiratory symptoms to postpone their visit.

Ensure all current infection prevention and control practices are adhered to; this includes but is not limited to:

- Performing hand hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and equipment. Consider developing a cleaning/disinfecting schedule for the facility according to visitation times.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning frequently touched areas. Use only disinfectants that have the Drug Identification Number (DIN) on label. (disinfectants table)
- Check expiry dates of products used and always follow manufacturer's instructions (for contact times, dilution instructions).
- Ensure enough supplies for hand hygiene are available and hand dispensers are replenished regularly (e.g. liquid hand soap, paper towel, hand sanitizers at least 60%), and consider having enough/or extra supplies of facial tissues.

<https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/COVID-19/Workplaces-and-Employers>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19.html>