



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

July 17, 2020

Dear Funeral Directors and Cemetery District Managers,

Fresno County continues to demonstrate concerning levels of disease transmission that impact the general population. Based on these current conditions the Fresno County Department of Public Health is modifying Funeral Home and Cemetery guidelines issued June 26, 2020. The guidelines below are effective immediately.

Funeral Home/Mortuary Guidance:

- Mortuary visitation or viewing limited to 15 minutes.
- No more than 10 persons.
- No family home or off-site visitation or viewing.
- All persons shall wear a mask/face covering.
- No ill persons in attendance.
- No quarantined persons shall be in attendance.
- If rotating family members, a thorough cleaning must be completed between each rotation.
- All persons must maintain physical distancing practices to the maximum extent possible.
- Clergy and guest speakers may remove mask during eulogy provided safe distancing is accommodated.
- No food, drinks, potlucks, catered food services, etc. are allowed, except for services lasting longer than 24hours. Such services will be allowed single serve disposable containers.
- Temperature and symptom screenings are the responsibility of the hosting establishment.
- The State of California guidelines now restrict indoor singing or chanting. Refer to the Faith Based CDPH guidance at <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>

Cemetery Guidance Per Graveside Service:

- Cemetery Graveside services are allowed.
- Services shall not last longer than 30 minutes.
- Services shall be limited to 25 persons.
- Mausoleum services limited to 10 persons in attendance.
- Cemetery will provide controlled access points to grave site.
- Graveside seating allowed by household members.
- No ill persons in attendance.
- No quarantined persons shall be in attendance.

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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Cemetery Guidance Per Graveside Service Continued:

- All persons shall wear a mask/face covering.
- Clergy and guest speakers may remove mask during eulogy provided safe distancing is accommodated.
- All persons must maintain physical distancing practices to the maximum extent possible.
- Live Musicians must maintain social distance and keep 15-25 feet if singing or using wind instruments. The use of face coverings is recommended for all singers when proper social distancing cannot be maintained. Their numbers will count towards the 25-person limit in attendance.
- Standard Military funerals allowed and may include Honor Guards, Chaplain and Rifle Party.

Cemetery Visitation Guidance:

- Cemetery visitation by the public are allowed.
- All persons shall wear a mask/face covering.
- All persons must maintain physical distancing practices to the maximum extent possible.
- Post health department guidance for public viewing,
<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19>

Additional Resources:

- <https://www.nfda.org/covid-19>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/funeral-guidance.html>
- https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf

The Fresno County Department of Public Health supports your efforts as you provide services to your families. We ask that you continue to encourage families to adhere to the above guidance and recommendations. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Rais Vohra, M.D.
Fresno County Interim Health Officer

RV/smg

cc: Joe Prado, Community Health Division Manager, Fresno County Department of Public Health
David Luchini, Assistant Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health
David Pomaville, Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health