

For information only. Parts of this correspondence will have changed since its issue.

Dear Funeral Directors/Arrangers,

This is Covid-19 update number 8. The last update was 19/06/2020

Further to some easing of restrictions we will, from Monday 13 July, allow up to 24 mourners to attend funerals both in the chapel at Putney Vale and at graveside ceremonies. This decision has been made following the allowance of up to 30 people attending small private events such as weddings and through the assessment of the safe capacity of our chapel. The restriction of 'immediate family only' has been removed and in place is 'a modest number of family and friends'.

New guidance issued last week can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

The guidance above states that singing and other activities that encourage raised voices be avoided. We suggest that arrangers advise families of this part of the guidance and leave the family to make a decision.

Test and trace. We feel, on advice from the ICCM that it would be impractical to take the details of mourners before or after a service. Therefore we ask that the lead mourner (the applicant) make a list of mourners and their telephone numbers and keep it for 21 days. Should we be contacted by the NHS/Public Health England we will contact the lead mourner and advise accordingly.

Our temporary car park will be extended to provide additional parking in the cemetery. Please note that only funeral vehicles (hearse and limousines) are permitted in the area around the crematorium building. Funeral operatives are asked to park in a sensible place in the cemetery and walk to the building.

We are currently working to open the public areas of the crematorium which will take effect from Monday 20 July. The design of the building limits how we manage social distancing for the public so we will be using west chapel to allow visitors to leave the building. From Monday 20 July, the West Chapel will close again for funerals until further notice. Collection of ashes by funeral operatives continues from the rear access to the crematory.

Lastly can I please ask that for cremations and burials, a small plaque with the deceased's name is placed on the head end of the coffin to assist us in checking the identity before the coffin leaves the hearse. This will become a permanent policy from 1 August.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Kelvin.