

COVID19 - Guidance for families

6th revision 19/7/2021. This overrides past guidance notes in their entirety.

Interment of cremated remains in a grave – Wandsworth Cemeteries

Thank you for your enquiry or for booking an appointment to inter your loved ones cremated remains in a grave.

With the government further easing restrictions and removing social distancing legislation we are still mindful that the pandemic remains to be a threat, particularly to the clinically vulnerable. We ask that you adhere to this guidance and share this with your family and the other people who will attend the interment. Our priority is your safety and that of our staff. We also want to ensure a dignified moment for you to bury your loved one's ashes.

Restrictions.

There is no restriction on the number of attendees, but we ask that you consider the number of people invited to reduce any threat of spreading the virus. We also ask that you keep your distance from staff and allow them to do their duties whilst remaining safe. Anyone who intends to be there on the day who develops symptoms or who is told to self-isolate must not attend.

NHS test and trace – As the lead person we ask that you list the names and contact numbers for the group of people in your party. Please retain this list for 21 days after the appointment. If we are contacted by the NHS we will contact you and advise you further.

On the day.

Please aim to arrive in good time, we suggest 10 minutes before your appointment. During the booking process you would have indicated where you would like to meet. If in doubt, please visit the office. If your appointment is at Wandsworth cemetery the attendant and/or grave digger will meet you at the graveside.

If you are bringing your loved ones cremated remains on the day and meeting at the graveside, please wait until the attendant arrives before placing them in the grave as we need to carry out a legal check of the nameplate prior to the interment.

If we are looking after your loved ones cremated remains, we will bring them to the grave and place them nearby to give you some time to say a few words if you choose. We will discuss with you whether you wish to lower the container into the ground or if you would like us to do this for you. In this case this may be carried out by a gravedigger but will be overseen by the attendant.

If you would like a minister or celebrant to officiate at the graveside you will need to organise this directly with them, otherwise once the cremated remains have been lowered into the grave we will move a little distance away and will give you some time to say a few words should you wish. We regret that our attendant will not offer any form of reading or prayer.

If a couple of attendees wish to backfill the grave this can be accommodated. Please take instructions from the grave digger and respect social distancing if asked. If you do not wish to fully backfill the grave you may sprinkle some soil into the grave. There will be a container nearby.

If the grave digger is backfilling the grave, we will ask that you move a little away from the grave to allow the gravedigger to carry out the backfill and make the area tidy. This usually takes around 10 minutes. You may choose to leave prior to this. The attendant will leave the area at this stage. Once the grave digger has moved away you are more than welcome to spend as long as you need at the graveside. Once the backfill is completed the gravedigger will leave the area.

If you have any further questions prior to the appointment, please contact the office on 020 3959 0090 and a member of staff will be happy to help. Otherwise the attendant will be able to answer questions on the day.

Guidance is subject to change. We will endeavour to contact you if your appointment is likely to be affected.

We thank you for your understanding.