



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bereavement Services

**Guidance for Applicants
regarding attendance at
funerals at Norse Road
Chapel**

Firstly please accept our condolences at the loss of your loved one. We understand that this is an extremely distressing, stressful and upsetting time for you.

We would like to provide you with the relevant information so that you can prepare for your loved one's funeral service fully understanding the restrictions that Norse Road Crematorium has had to implement in order to comply with the Governments guidance on funerals which are designed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Government guidance states that only the following should attend a funeral alongside, the Funeral Director, our Chapel Attendants and funeral staff:-

- **Members of the deceased person's household**
- **Close family members.**
- **Only if the above are unable to attend then a few close friends can attend.**

In order to adhere to social distancing within the chapel, we have had to restrict numbers to a maximum of **20 people**. There is no standing allowed in the chapel, foyer or outside under the porte-cochere. People living in same household may sit together; otherwise, only **2 people** should sit in each of the available pews.

Service times within the chapel has had to be reduced to allow for time for our staff to undertake a strict cleaning regime in between each service.

When you arrive on site, you will be greeted by our Meet and Greet team, who will direct you to the car park. If you arrive early, we ask that you remain in your cars until a few minutes prior to your service.

The waiting room is open, although, only **12 people** can enter at any one time and you will be directed by a member of our Meet and Greet team when it is safe to enter.

Seating within the Chapel

As the Applicant for the cremation/burial, you have the right to say who can attend the funeral as long as it is in keeping with the guidelines (see above). However, we ask that you ensure that all mourners are advised of the seating plan within the chapel, so that everyone is aware of where they should sit **prior** to the funeral service.

In accordance with the guidelines, we have put provisions in place within the chapel to ensure self-isolating and extremely clinically vulnerable mourners can attend the funeral service. However, should any of your mourners be in these categories this will reduce maximum numbers in attendance down to **18**, this is so we can ensure everyone remains as safe as possible.

Mourners who are symptomatic i.e. anyone showing coronavirus symptoms, **should not attend the funeral** due to the risk that they pose to others. Remote participation should be considered and there is now webcasting available in the chapel, which can be requested through your funeral director.

Mourners who are self-isolating - key mourners of your loved one, may be self-isolating due to another member of the household being unwell with coronavirus symptoms. If the funeral is scheduled before the period of household isolation has been completed,(14 days from first person showing symptoms), the mourner can attend as long as they **do not have any symptoms**, but they must be seated in accordance with the seating plan. They must enter the chapel last and must be the last to leave.

Mourners who are extremely clinically vulnerable – can attend the funeral service should they wish, and the chapel seating plan provides provision for them to sit separated from the remaining mourners. You must inform them where they should sit prior to the service, they should enter the chapel first, and be the first to leave and exit the grounds.

You must advise your mourners if a self-isolating person is in attendance. If any other mourner is extremely clinically vulnerable, they must decide whether they wish to attend or not. Webcasting is available as an alternative and can be arranged through your funeral director.

