

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



BY EMAIL

Chief Executives, HSC Trusts
SOLACE NI (*for dissemination to all Local Council
Chief Executives*)

Joan McCaffrey, Local Government Regional
Officer

National Association of Funeral Directors (NI
Federation)

Society of Allied Independent Funeral Directors

British Institute of Funeral Directors

Irish Association of Funeral Directors

British Institute of Embalmers

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 16 April 2020

Dear Colleagues

COVID-19 – UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Regional guidance to assist Funeral Directors in managing infection risks when handling deceased individuals with COVID-19, was issued by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland on 1 April. This was published in addition to the Public Health England guidance on “Care of the Deceased with suspected or confirmed coronavirus” and took particular account of our local culture and practices around burials and cremation.

Since publication, new information advice and guidance has emerged on a range of issues and consequently amendments have been made to reflect this.

The revised document can be found at on the DoH and the PHA websites at
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/guidance-surrounding-death-and>
<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

As I advised in my previous correspondence this is an evolving situation and we will continue to monitor all relevant advice and guidance published to ensure that the guidance issued by the Department is updated when required.

I would ask that this information is cascaded to all relevant staff as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

TAB A

ATTACHED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT