

COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral in England during the coronavirus pandemic

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COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral in England during the coronavirus pandemic

The Government has set out a [roadmap out of lockdown](#) in England. At all Steps in the roadmap, people are permitted to leave their homes to attend a funeral as well as other religious, belief-based, or commemorative events following a person's death as long as they follow the relevant restrictions and guidance.

At Step 1, funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people. Religious, belief-based or commemorative events following a person's death, such as stone setting ceremonies, ash scatterings or a wake, can also continue with up to 6 people in attendance. In this guidance, the phrase 'commemorative events' refers to such events.

This guidance is of a general nature and should be treated as a guide. In the event of conflict between any applicable legislation (including the health and safety legislation) and this guidance, the applicable legislation shall prevail.

This guidance applies in England. It remains under review and may be updated in line with the changing situation.

Main principles

This advice is designed to assist people who are managing a funeral venue or organising a funeral in England related to a death from any cause during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It is for people of any faith, or none.

This guidance has been developed to make sure that:

- bereaved people are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect
- funerals can continue to take place whilst minimising the risk of infection

[Guidance on arranging or attending a funeral](#) is available for the public.

Guidance from 29 March

From 29 March, at Step 1 on the roadmap out of lockdown, some of the rules on what you can and cannot do changed. However, many restrictions remain in place. For further information, please refer to [Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do](#).

People are permitted to leave their home to attend a funeral or commemorative event. Funeral ceremonies must have no more than 30 people attending, whether indoors or outdoors. This number does not include anyone working at the event. The venue manager or event organiser must carry out a risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The actual number of people able to attend will depend on how many people can be safely accommodated within the venue with social distancing. In some cases, this may be fewer than 30 people. Commemorative events must have no more than 6 people. This limit applies both indoors and outdoors and does not include anyone working at the event. Crematoriums and burial grounds will be open to the public and people are permitted to leave their home to visit these locations. When meeting others outdoors, people can gather in a group of up to 6 (from any number of households), or in a group of any size from up to 2 households (a 'household' can include an existing support bubble, if eligible). People should maintain strict social distancing from other groups and households at all times and should follow [guidance on meeting with others safely](#).

What you need to know

This guidance aims to balance the needs of the bereaved to mourn, with the need to minimise the spread of COVID-19 infection. While recognising the importance of these rituals and gatherings, the actions detailed in this guidance are important in reducing the spread of infection, particularly to clinically extremely vulnerable and clinically vulnerable people who may be at risk of severe illness.

The risk of COVID-19 spread increases whenever households mix. A household is defined as those people who live together under the same roof and who share facilities. Any mourners who are not part of the same household or support bubble should follow general [social distancing guidelines](#) in addition to those outlined here. A support bubble is defined as a close support network which links two eligible households. For further information on support bubbles, please refer to the [guidance on making a support bubble with another household](#).

For deaths where COVID-19 infection was present, it is recognised that household members of the deceased person may have already been exposed to COVID-19 during the course of the preceding illness. However, steps should be taken to minimise any new exposure, especially where individuals who are not part of the household, and where those at risk of severe illness, may come into contact with the virus.

The government has advised that funeral services should continue and has requested that local authorities consider how they can facilitate this. Funerals where mourners attend in person can continue but it remains important that this guidance, the law and (any) restrictions in place are followed.

To ensure that organisations managing funerals are able to facilitate the needs and wishes of families, it is important that funerals are not delayed.

We understand how difficult funeral arrangements will be for families and friends who have lost loved ones, however the current guidance will remain in place for the foreseeable future as we continue to respond to the challenges of COVID-19.

Planning funerals and commemorative events

Actions that should be taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19 whilst planning a funeral or commemorative event include:

- limiting mourners to a maximum of 30 people at the funeral service as required by law
- advising that only close friends and family should be invited to funerals and commemorative events
- making sure the venue manager has carried out a risk assessment and taken all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the virus
- making sure venue capacity and attendance numbers allow social distancing (at least 2 metres) to be maintained between individuals who are not from the same household or support bubble during the funeral and commemorative events. See further details on [managing the event safely](#)
- recommending remote participation instead of attendance in person by any mourners where this fulfils their needs, in particular those who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable
- ensuring mourners are aware of any clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable people attending, and of vulnerable people's need to minimise close contact
- facilitating strict adherence to processes to minimise the risk of virus transmission to clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable mourners, should they choose to attend in person
- reminding mourners that anyone who has been instructed by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate because they or another household member

have tested positive for COVID-19, or because they are the close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, must not attend a funeral (unless they are close family members, where an exemption applies). Although even in such cases, mourners who are required to self-isolate are encouraged to strongly consider whether they should attend because of the risk they pose to others

- reminding mourners of restrictions on anyone who has travelled to England from anywhere outside the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and of the requirement to [self-isolate](#) for 10 days. They may leave their place of self-isolation in limited circumstances, including on compassionate grounds. For further detail see section on Mourners arriving from outside England.
- where any exemption applies from one's self-isolation period to attend a funeral, recommending remote participation by mourners where possible. See further detail on [legal requirements to self isolate and exemptions](#)
- making sure staff and funeral attendees follow the advice on social distancing and wear a face covering when travelling to and from the funeral gathering. See the section on [travelling to and from a funeral](#)
- Ensuring that where multiple parties are involved in arranging a funeral, roles and responsibilities which fall to the close friends and family arranging the funeral, the event organiser and the venue manager are clarified. See the section on [Managing the Event Safely](#).

Social distancing and keeping mourners safe

Measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 include ensuring mourners do the following:

- Staying at least 2 metres away from others outside their household or support bubble

- washing their hands regularly for 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser
- avoiding touching their eyes, nose or mouth
- when coughing or sneezing, covering their mouth and nose with a tissue and throwing away the tissue safely. If a mourner does not have a tissue, they should use the crook of their elbow (not hands) to cough or sneeze into
- ensuring they wear face coverings, as required by law when attending indoor venues such as places of worship, crematoriums and burial ground chapels. This applies unless an individual is exempt for health, disability or other reasons. Face coverings should also be worn in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where attendees come into contact with people they do not normally meet. There is additional [guidance on the use of face coverings](#)
- there is specific guidance that should be followed for singing, chanting and the use of musical instruments. Please refer to guidance for the safe use of [Places of Worship](#), [principles for safer singing](#) and [performing arts](#)
- venue managers should ensure that any socially-distanced vocal or instrumental contributions takes place safely, whether indoors or outdoors.
- If the event is taking place indoors, small groups of singers are allowed to perform. This should be limited to as few singers as possible, with social distancing being maintained at all times. Communal singing should not take place. If the event is taking place outside, the congregation may join in with singing
- venue managers should ensure spoken addresses to the mourners or their responses during a ceremony are not in a raised voice
- try to facilitate remote participation (for example, by live-streaming), particularly for anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable.
- venue managers should also consider ventilation as part of measures to make the venue COVID secure. [Guidance on ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of COVID-19 is available.](#)

Who can attend a funeral?

Funeral ceremonies must have no more than 30 people attending, whether indoors or outdoors. Anyone working at the funeral, for example officiants, staff employed by the venue or third-party staff, is not included in this number. However, keeping overall numbers as low as possible will reduce the risk of disease transmission and allow more flexibility in the use of spaces.

The venue manager or event organiser must carry out a risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The actual number of people able to attend will depend on how many people can be accommodated safely within the premises with social distancing. In some cases, this may be fewer than 30 people.

Limits for funeral ceremonies held as part of a regular communal worship service will be defined by the venue's Covid-19 risk assessment. During any such event, when taking place indoors mourners must not mingle with anyone outside of their household or support bubble.

When taking place outdoors, in line with the social contact limits, mourners can gather in a group of up to 6 people (from any number of households), or up to 2 households (a household can include an existing support bubble, if eligible). You should maintain strict social distancing from other groups and households at all times.

Separate guidance on the [safe use of places of worship is available](#).

Venue managers should always make sure mourners maintain social distancing and ensure mourners take particular care to maintain hand and respiratory hygiene – washing hands or if this isn't possible, use hand sanitiser. Venue managers should pay extra attention to frequently touched surfaces – especially when using shared facilities like bathrooms.

People with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend

People who have symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend a funeral because they pose a risk to others. They should immediately self-isolate, follow the stay at home guidance and [request a test online](#), or contact NHS 119 via telephone to request a test if they do not have internet access.

People who are required to self-isolate

People must self-isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19, are the close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or have been advised to do so by NHS Test & Trace and should not attend a funeral due to the risk they pose to others. By following instructions to self-isolate, people who have had close recent contact with someone with COVID-19 will be protecting their family, friends, colleagues and other people around them, and will play a direct role in stopping the spread of the virus. Follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection](#).

If a person is legally required to self-isolate, they may only break self-isolation to attend the funeral if it is for a close family member (for example, a partner, parent, sibling, child or grandparent). In this instance, we would strongly recommend that mourner(s) do not attend in person but instead attend virtually, for example through a video link.

They must not break isolation to attend other commemorative events under any circumstance. This would be a legal offence and they may be fined. They must otherwise continue to self-isolate unless there are other circumstances present that legally allow them not to.

If, after very careful consideration and with awareness of the risks they may pose to others, a mourner who is required to self-isolate chooses to attend the funeral of a close family member it is essential that all of the following precautions are taken:

- Advising the venue manager, event organiser and other mourners in advance that they are in their self-isolation period. Other mourners need to be aware of this before attending
- ensuring that they take extra care to keep their distance and avoid any contact with another mourner who may be clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable
- maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres between themselves and others at all times
- practising strict hand and respiratory hygiene by:
- wearing a surgical grade Type IIR face mask or higher grade, properly fitting, to minimise any risk of viral transmission from the isolating individual. If a respirator mask is used (for example N95), this should be non-valved. Type IIR masks are widely available from pharmacies, supermarkets and online retailers. We advise that the mourner should provide their own face mask. Those organising the funeral may also want to ensure they have some in stock
- washing their hands more often than usual with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitiser
- avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth
- covering their coughs or sneezes.

Mourners who are clinically extremely vulnerable

People who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should have received a letter (a formal NHS notification) to inform them of this and may have been advised to shield in the past. Shielding guidance was lifted nationally on 1 April 2021, but clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to continue taking extra precautions to protect themselves, set out in the guidance page for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

If they do choose to attend a funeral, clinically extremely vulnerable people should inform those organising the funeral, maintain strict social distancing

and follow the [guidance for protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#).

Measures should be taken to facilitate the attendance of the clinically extremely vulnerable (should they wish to attend) to a funeral, and advice should be given prior to their attendance to help keep their social interactions low. [Guidance for protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be followed and clinically extremely vulnerable people should practise rigorous hand and respiratory hygiene in addition to wearing a face covering for their personal protection.

When travelling to and from the venue, clinically extremely vulnerable people may want to avoid car sharing with others from outside their household or support bubble. If they have to use a taxi or public transport to attend, they should wear a face mask at all times unless they are exempt, and should consider using public transport outside of peak times. General [guidance for safer travel can be found here](#).

It is advised that other attendees are told that there is a clinically extremely vulnerable person attending and to be respectful of the vulnerable person's need to avoid close contact at any point, paying particular attention in this regard to any other mourner with a legal duty to self-isolate who has chosen to attend in person.

Travelling to and from a funeral

People in the same support bubble can stay overnight with each other as they count as one household. Hotels may also remain open for the purposes of providing accommodation for anyone attending a funeral or commemorative event. Anyone who does not live in the same household or support bubble should remain socially distanced within the accommodation.

Mourners should be facilitated to follow the guidance on [social distancing](#) and the [safer travel guidance](#) for passengers when travelling to and from the funeral. Wherever possible, mourners should be advised to travel to the venue in a car by themselves, or only with people from their household or support bubble. If this is not possible, they should be advised to:

- Keep to a small group from their household or support bubble
- open windows in transport for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- make sure that the car is cleaned between journeys using standard cleaning products, particularly door handles and other areas that people may touch
- wear a face covering. Mourners are required by law to wear a face-covering on public transport, in taxis and private hire vehicles unless they are exempt for health, disability or other reasons. Passengers who are not exempt are legally required to wear a face covering when travelling in a funeral director's vehicle. A face covering is also strongly recommended for drivers. For further information, please refer to the guidance on face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own.

If mourners are leaving self-isolation to attend the funeral they should avoid using public transport if possible.

Mourners coming from outside England

Where international travel to the UK is allowed, anyone arriving in England from countries outside the Common Travel Area (which is made up of UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) must quarantine for 10 days since they were last in a country outside the Common Travel Area. For further detail please see [guidance on how to quarantine at home when arriving in England](#).

Individuals arriving in England from countries [not on the travel ban list](#) may leave their place of self-isolation in limited circumstances, including on compassionate grounds. This may include attending a funeral of a household member or a close family member, or a friend (if neither household member or close family member can attend the funeral). They must continue to self-isolate at all other times.

Individuals travelling to England having been in or through any country on the [travel ban list](#) (also called the 'red list travel ban countries') will typically be refused entry to the UK, unless they are a British or Irish national, or have residence rights in the UK. If permitted to arrive in England from a red list travel ban country they must quarantine in a government approved 'managed quarantine hotel' from arrival until at least 10 days have passed since they were outside the country.

Individuals in managed quarantine may request permission to attend the funeral of a close family member or a member of their household. Those who test positive during their quarantine period are strongly advised not to attend a funeral in person and attend virtually where possible, due to the risk they pose to others. [For further detail, please see guidance on booking and staying in a quarantine hotel when arriving in England.](#)

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell), should not attend a funeral.

If a mourner chooses to attend the funeral in person, and receives the relevant permission to do so, they should strictly follow the precautions outlined above for '[People who are required to self-isolate.](#)' Travel to and from managed quarantine should be in private transport and the details logged with security staff.

Please see the latest [advice on travel bans, coronavirus testing and self-isolating on arrival in England.](#)

Managing the event safely

For the purpose of this guidance the ‘event organiser’ is used to refer to an individual, generally a professional, who is organising the funeral or commemorative event. A funeral director is likely to fulfil this role.

The ‘venue manager’ is intended to mean the individual managing the place where funerals and commemorative events are held, such as a burial ground, crematorium or place of worship. In some instances, the ‘event organiser’ and ‘venue manager’ may be the same individual. Both event organisers and venue managers have a duty to plan, manage and monitor the event to make sure that mourners and staff are not exposed to health and safety risks.

The ‘lead mourner’ is used to refer to the individual or individuals who are working with the event organiser to set the requirements for the funeral and in most cases will be issuing invitations to the event. This is likely to be a family member or close friend of the deceased.

All parties should adhere to relevant restrictions and guidance.

It is a legal requirement for a COVID-19 risk assessment to be completed for the location in which the event is being held. This will generally be undertaken by the venue manager, though can, in some circumstances be carried out by the event organiser - for example if the event is taking place in a public outdoor space. Both parties should take all reasonable steps to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during the event. This will include completing all responsibilities under the risk assessment as well as the actions outlined in this guidance, to ensure the event takes place in a COVID-19 safe and secure way.

The event organiser, such as a funeral director, should ensure during the planning process that the lead mourner is aware of any restrictions and guidance in place in advance of the event. This should include restrictions on attendance, the need to wear face coverings and travelling safely to the event. During the event, the event manager and/or venue manager should take all reasonable steps to ensure mourners and staff are not exposed to

health and safety risks. For example, they must take all reasonable steps to ensure the event takes place in a COVID-19 safe and secure way.

An event organiser and/or venue manager should notify the police if they reasonably believe that the numbers attending are likely to breach the legal limits for a funeral or commemorative event, despite the steps they have taken to prevent this, or if the numbers in attendance have unexpectedly exceeded the legal limits. The police can then decide the most appropriate enforcement which may include issuing a fixed penalty notice.

Management of the venue

In this section, ‘the venue’ is intended to mean the place where funerals and commemorative events are held, including the burial ground or a crematorium.

It is strongly advised that in order to stay safe, mourners attending in person are kept to a modest number. There must be no more than 30 mourners at the funeral. Commemorative events can take place with up to 6 attendees.

Guidance on venue capacity

Venue capacity and attendance numbers must allow at least 2 metres to be maintained between individuals who are not from the same household or support bubble. Social distancing between attendees should be facilitated.

The venue manager must limit attendance at funerals and commemorative events, based on how many people can be safely accommodated within the premises with social distancing in place within the respective legal limits. In some cases, this may be less than the maximum number permitted. Venues will need to consider how to best manage this, for example including use of live-streaming for remote

attendance, where possible.

The need to comply with limits on gatherings should be communicated, for example when booking the funeral or on arrival.

Guidance on face coverings

Mourners should be reminded that they are legally required to wear face coverings in indoor locations such as places of worship, crematoriums and burial ground chapels. There is additional [guidance on the use of face coverings](#). Please be mindful that there are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups not to wear a face covering in these settings or to remove it, for example if a mourner becomes distressed. Venue managers should treat such necessary actions with sympathy and understanding.

Guidance on remote attendance

Measures that allow remote attendance should be facilitated particularly for mourners who are required to self-isolate or who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

Guidance on maintaining good hygiene practices and venue cleaning

- Handwashing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitiser should be provided and signposted clearly. If venue toilets are kept open they should be carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This may include:
- using signs and posters to build awareness of good hygiene and social distancing practices
- establishing a one way system
- setting up and monitoring more frequent cleaning schedules including waste management and collection
- processes should be in place to allow suitable time for [cleaning and disinfecting](#) the area in which the service takes place, both before and

after each service, paying attention to frequently-touched objects and surfaces using regular cleaning products

- improve ventilation as far as possible and whenever possible in order to reduce the risk of people passing on COVID-19 to people near them. This includes ensuring plenty of fresh air whenever possible, including opening windows. The risk is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces and when people spend a lot of time together in the same room
- consider how to manage the flow of groups in and out of venues to minimise overlap between different groups
- allow time for adequate cleaning.

Guidance on employee arrangements

- The arrangements for performances by professional singers or musicians should be agreed, ensuring they comply with social distancing and other measures to limit the transmission of the virus. [Guidance for the safe use of places of worship](#) has further information
- singing should be limited to the performers and ceremonies should not include congregational singing. Venues should take account of the [performing arts guidance, principles for safer singing and guidance on the safe use of places of worship](#), which outlines additional mitigations such as good ventilation. Where music is to be played and recordings are available, consider using these as an alternative to live singing to lower risks
- if possible, staff should avoid using busy forms of transport, routes or crowded areas in transit to or from the venue
- employers should follow the [guidance on face coverings at work](#) to assess their use on a case by case basis. Staff should follow guidance from their employer that should be based on a workplace health and safety assessment. Public health advice is that staff should wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult, and where they come into contact with people they do not normally meet

- venue managers can enter into a suitable arrangement with others carrying out services in their venue, for example event organisers or the lead mourner, ensuring that measures are in place to support public safety and actions are taken as appropriate to the venue as detailed above.

Venue managers are strongly encouraged to follow the [guidance for businesses on supporting NHS Test and Trace](#) through keeping a temporary record of staff shift patterns and visitors for 21 days and displaying an official NHS QR code poster. This could help to contain outbreaks of infection.

Linked religious, belief-based or commemorative events

In this guidance, the phrase ‘commemorative events’ is used to refer to religious, belief-based or commemorative events, other than a funeral. Stone setting ceremonies, ash scattering or a wake are examples of such events. These may take place before or following the funeral.

Commemorative events can take place with up to 6 people. This number does not include anyone working at the event.

If a mourner has been advised to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace they must not break their isolation to attend a commemorative event, as it would be a legal offence to do so and they may be fined.

Mourners may consider delaying commemorative events until restrictions have been lifted.

Where you can hold commemorative events

All events should take place in a COVID-19 secure venue, where the venue manager has carried out a risk assessment and taken all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

If the event is taking place inside a private dwelling, only members of the household or support bubble can attend.

If the event is taking place outdoors, in line with social contact limits a group of six, or two households (including support bubbles, if eligible to form one) may attend.

Commemorative events can take place in venues that are not expressly required to close under the COVID-19 Regulations, as well as venues where a relevant exemption applies. From 29 March, this will include venues like community centres, places of worship, burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoriums. Areas of exhibition centres and conference centres that are not bars and restaurants, for example conference halls or meeting rooms, may also be rented for this purpose. Some buildings or rooms within a larger, closed visitor attraction or hospitality venue can also be rented for this purpose, where the venue itself doesn't function as part of the visitor attraction or hospitality venue. In these cases, there would need to be direct access to the venue without going through a closed part of the larger site. This does not generally include rooms or spaces within indoor visitor attractions (for example a room within a heritage site) unless they can be accessed directly from the street, or open outdoor areas of the venue.

From Step 2, commemorative events may also take place in venues which are permitted to open for the purposes of providing unrestricted services. This includes holiday accommodation, including hotels.

In all of the cases noted above, any part of the premises ordinarily used for the consumption of food or drink indoors must remain closed. This means, for example, that a commemorative event can take place in the function room of a hotel (if licensed to do so), but not the restaurant. Food and drink must not be provided by the venue, and only light refreshments should be served.

Where a venue is permitted to open in the Regulations, venue managers will have discretion over when they consider it safe to open, and the venue manager should also be content that it is safe to proceed. It is against law for a venue to provide a service if it is non-compliant with the gatherings limits and exemptions.

Food and drink at linked commemorative events

At the event, attendees should remain seated, socially distanced from those outside your household or support bubble, with table service provided to support social distancing and to minimise any risk of infection. Individuals should not touch communal or shared objects, or handle items other than their own (for example avoiding the use of shared cutlery, dishes or service sheets). Sharing of food should be avoided and other actions to reduce the risk of transmission should also be considered, for example, use of pre-wrapped food where not provided by the venue. Attendees should ensure that social distancing measures are observed at all times and guidance on the use of face coverings is also followed.

Personal care of deceased people

Mourners are advised not to take part in rituals or practices that bring them into close contact with the deceased. Where there are aspects of faith which include close contact with the deceased, that contact should be restricted to those who are wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), under the supervision of someone who is trained in the appropriate use of PPE. Detailed [guidance on care of the deceased](#) should be followed, regardless of the setting in which personal care of the deceased is provided.

Given the increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness in clinically extremely vulnerable people or clinically vulnerable people, it is strongly advised that they have no contact at all with the body of the deceased, regardless of whether they are wearing PPE. This includes activities such as washing, preparing or dressing the body of the deceased.

Experiencing grief or bereavement

Whenever the loss of a friend or loved one happens, it can be an extremely difficult and challenging time. This may be even more difficult for those experiencing bereavement and grief during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bereaved people may struggle not just with the bereavement, but with the impact of social distancing measures and the fact that they may not be able to say goodbye in the way that they would have wanted. This may be particularly hard for those living alone, and it may be harder to connect with usual support networks.

Further information on grief and bereavement support are available through the [NHS support page for bereavement and loss](#). [Cruse Bereavement Care](#) also offers advice and support on dealing with bereavement and grief during the COVID-19 pandemic and [ataloss.org](#) provides links to bereavement services across the UK. The [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) supports children through bereavement and has information and links to national and local organisations.

The Health Protection Regulations

This document is guidance. The law is contained in the:

- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Steps\) \(England\) Regulations 2021](#)
- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place\) \(England\) Regulations 2020, amended](#)
- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Self-Isolation\) \(England\) Regulations 2020.](#)
- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, International Travel\) \(England\) \(Schedule B1A\) \(Managed Quarantine\)](#)

For the position of what is lawful, you should refer specifically to the relevant regulations above.

