

## **COVID-19**

### **Mass Gathering at Funerals**

March 28, 2020

Mass gatherings can have the potential for serious public health consequences if they are not planned and managed carefully. They can increase the spread of infectious diseases and cause additional strain on the health-care system when held during outbreaks.

To help protect and prevent the spread of infection during mass gatherings at funerals, please take the following precautions:

#### **Social Distancing**

- Symptomatic people should not attend; they should remain home on self isolation.
- All travellers from outside New Brunswick should not attend as they should remain in self isolation
- Social distancing should be maintained and should not exceed 10 people.
  - Keep at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 metres) between yourself and others.
- Funeral homes may consider live streaming services as an option so as to include people while maintaining social distancing.
- Mass Gatherings at the crematorium/ burial ground should be avoided as a social distancing measure. If attending, maintain the social distance of 2 arms lengths as discussed above.
- Greet with a wave instead of a handshake, a kiss or a hug
- Older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer or diabetes) are at higher risk for serious illness at mass gatherings. Unless it is absolutely necessary, if you are at higher risk, it is very important for you to stay home.

#### **Personal Hygiene Etiquette**

- As much as possible, avoid touching surfaces while inside the building.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.
  - Dispose of the used tissue in garbage immediately.
- Wash your hands immediately after coughing and sneezing and after using the washroom, before and after preparing food, and before and after eating.

- When washing hands, wash your hands **often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Follow the following steps:
  1. Wet hands with warm water
  2. Apply liquid soap
  3. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds (as long as it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice)
  4. Wash palms, back of each hand, between fingers, thumbs and under nails
  5. Rinse your hands and dry them well

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- It is important that facilities that provide funeral services increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces during mass gatherings to control the spread of viruses, and other microorganisms.
- All surfaces, especially those general surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door knobs, handrails, etc., should be cleaned at least twice daily and when soiled.
- When choosing an environmental cleaning product, it is important to follow product instructions for dilution, contact time and safe use, and to ensure that the product is:
  - Registered in Canada with a Drug Identification Number (DIN)
  - Labelled as a broad-spectrum virucide