

NH Funeral Service Establishment Guidelines for Group Gatherings New Hampshire Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association

These guidelines apply to funeral establishments which are currently open and providing essential services. In addition to the New Hampshire universal guidelines, funeral establishments which are currently open due to provision of essential services must adopt these guidelines immediately.

Employee Protection:

1. All staff must wear cloth face coverings at all times when in the funeral establishment and in public locations or shared staff areas (e.g. break rooms), even if other individuals are not immediately present.
 - a. Provide training on cloth face coverings based on CDC guidance for Use of Cloth Face Coverings.
 - b. People wearing face coverings must not touch their eyes, nose, mouth, or face, or adjust their masks without first sanitizing hands. After touching face or adjusting mask, hands must be sanitized.
2. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer must be made readily available for both staff and consumers at entrances and exits to the funeral establishment, at checkout locations, and in staff breakrooms and other commonly used staff areas.
3. Stagger shifts, breaks, and meals, in compliance with wage and hour laws and regulations to maintain social distancing.
4. Provide regular updates and training for employees about personal COVID-19 mitigation and funeral establishment safeguards based on CDC guidelines.
5. Require all employees to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to supervisor.
6. Staff must be screened (questioned about) for symptoms of COVID-19 before each shift. Staff with any symptoms must not be allowed to work.
7. Staff should be instructed to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others (staff and funeral service attendees) at all times. Prohibit congregating in break rooms or common areas and limit capacity of such areas to allow for a safe social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible.
8. Restrict interaction between employees and outside visitors/attendees wherever possible.

Consumer Protection:

1. Develop a process for limiting the number of funeral service attendees inside a funeral establishment at a given time, excluding employees, to 50 percent or less of funeral establishment occupancy based on New Hampshire's Building and Fire Code.
2. Ensure any waiting line outside the funeral establishment has demarcations spacing funeral service attendees at least 6 feet apart. Seating to be arranged to provide social distancing.
3. Funeral service attendees should wear cloth face coverings at all times when inside the funeral establishment. Signage and staff should request this before funeral service attendees enter the funeral establishment.
4. Consider dedicated calling hours or appointment times for the elderly and medically vulnerable persons.
5. If feasible and reasonable, establish one-way traffic patterns for social distancing.

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6. Assign dedicated staff to monitor social distancing and compliance with protective actions, and to prompt funeral service attendees and other staff about the importance of social distancing, hand hygiene, and use of cloth face coverings.
8. Add social distancing reminder signage, personal and floor stickers in key areas in the funeral establishment.