



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR, MAGA'NAGA
JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGA'LU'U

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT

AUG 08 2020



ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR
ACTING DIRECTOR
LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TERRY G. AQUON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DPHSS Guidance Memo 2020-30

Re: Minimum Requirements for Wake and Funeral Services

Outlined below are requirements of funeral homes and mortuaries that service wakes, visitations, viewings, and/or other funeral services (collectively called, "Ceremony") to minimize the potential for transmission of COVID-19. These requirements are intended for events held in various settings, including funeral homes, cemetery facilities, and other venues. This guidance document is in addition to applicable requirements set forth in DPHSS Guidance Memo 2020-29.

A. General Restrictions and Requirements

- Ceremonies are limited to no more than ten (10) attendees indoors at any given time; however, this does not include employees of the funeral home. In addition, attendees who do not live in the same household should maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet.
- Prior to the start and the conclusion of the Ceremony, thoroughly clean and disinfect the facility using disinfectant cleaning supplies according to CDC guidelines.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- Post readily visible signage at the entrance and throughout the facility to remind staff and attendees of policies on wearing of face mask, social distancing, respiratory/hand hygiene, and prohibiting entry of those with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Provide hand-washing stations or hand sanitizers for attendees to use upon entering the facility.
 - Must provide adequate hand-washing supplies.
- Provide and place disposable facial tissues within reach and closed bins for discarding of used tissues.
- Practice extra precautions with high-touch areas, such as register book, that could be potential sources for contamination.
 - Put hand sanitizer next to the register book with a sign its use before signing.
- Require staff and attendees to wear face masks at all times.
 - Funeral homes may adopt U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention guidelines for face coverings for certain population and situations, including those with certain medical conditions, such as asthma and COPD.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-cov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#not-wear>

- Conduct screenings of attendees before they enter the facility.
 - This may include temperature checks, and/or questionnaire for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Attendees with symptoms are not to be permitted into the facility.
- If possible, provide separate entrance and exit.
- Discourage the sharing of commonly used objects, such as religious aids and microphones.
- The following activities are prohibited:
 - Ceremonies at private residences;
 - Serving of food and beverages at Ceremonies;
 - Kissing or embracing the deceased or coffin;
 - Post-Ceremony gatherings on facility premises; and
 - Congregational singing.
- Discourage holding or shaking hands, hugging, or kissing.

B. Employee Health and Hygiene

- Screen all staff of funeral homes reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms; staff with symptoms are prohibited from working.
- Provide and maintain personal protective equipment for employees to perform enhanced cleaning/disinfection.


ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR
Acting Director