

Levayot (*lit. accompanying [the deceased]*) – The Funeral

These guidelines for funerals have changed to be in line with government guidelines published on 29th June 2020

In order to avoid the potential spread of the virus, attendance at a Levaya will be limited to a maximum of 30 attendees, including the mourners (Aveilim) and Rabbi(s).

No one may attend if they have any (even slight) symptoms of Coronavirus.

Should mourners who are either extremely clinically vulnerable (i.e. they received a letter advising them to stay at home) or clinically vulnerable, having taken into account all the risks, wish to attend the Levaya of their family member, they may do so. However, they must advise the Burial office in advance of their intention to attend.

Mourners who are asymptomatic but self-isolating, having been told to do so by NHS Test and Trace can attend the Levaya of their family member. However, they must advise the Burial office in advance of their intention to attend.

Non-mourners who are self-isolating must not attend. Non-mourners who are clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable (shielding) should not attend.

All attendees should travel to the cemetery alone or with someone from their household.

Individuals might consider livestreaming funerals in order to allow others to be included.

All funerals will be held outdoors and people will be asked to stand 2m or 1m plus (at least 3 feet) apart from one another. All attendees should wash their hands according to best practice immediately before and after the Levaya. Normal water fountains are not operational therefore attendees may wish to bring their own water for washing on leaving the cemetery. No transport will be provided. Only mourners will be able to approach the grave and asked to put in earth. All other attendees must remain on nearby paths, staying appropriately socially distanced.

A one-way system is in operation at cemeteries. Please follow instructions between the car parks and prayer halls, maintaining social distancing at all times. Please do not arrive at the prayer halls more than 10 minutes in advance of the funeral.

Stonesettings (Hakamat Matzevot)

Stonesetting ceremonies are now taking place. As with funerals, in order to avoid the potential spread of the virus, attendance at stonesettings will be limited to a maximum of 30 attendees, including the mourners and Rabbi(s). Please refer to the section on funerals for detailed restrictions on attendees.

All stonesetting ceremonies will take place at the graveside and attendees will be escorted there at the scheduled start time. No transport will be provided. Only mourners can approach the grave. All other attendees must remain on nearby paths, staying appropriately socially distanced.

All attendees should wash their hands according to best practice immediately before and after the stonesetting. Normal water fountains are not operational, therefore attendees may wish to bring their own water for washing on leaving the cemetery.

A one way system is in operation at cemeteries, please follow instructions between the car parks and prayer halls maintaining social distancing at all times. Please do not arrive at the prayer halls more than 10 minutes in advance of the stonesetting.