



**County of Fresno**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

April 15, 2020

Dear Funeral Directors and Cemetery District Managers,

While we recognize the death care industry as an essential service, we also recognize social gatherings are a major contributor to the spread of COVID-19. We know that families are being forced to balance beliefs, rituals and traditions. However, we must maintain our efforts to ensure the health and safety of all. Therefore, we ask that you adhere to the following guidance.

Preference:

- Direct Burial or Direct Cremation, with no persons in attendance.

Alternative Guidance Per Service:

- Cemetery Graveside and Cemetery Drive-Through allowed.
- Mortuary visitation or viewing no more than 30 minutes.
- No family home or off-site visitation or viewing.
- No more than 10 persons, including clergy.
- Family will disclose to clergy if decedent is COVID-19 positive.
- No rotation or interchanging of the 10 persons.
- No ill persons in attendance.
- All persons must wear a mask.
- All persons must maintain social distancing of 6ft.
- No more than 15 minutes allowed at graveside.
- No more than 10 cars allowed at cemetery.
- The temporary closure of cemeteries for regular visitation.
- If you are unable to accommodate, close service to visitors.

Your dedication to protect your staff, the families you service and all those in the community in a safe and effective manner is commendable. We must all work together to slow the spread of the virus.

Respectfully,

Rais Vohra, M.D.

Fresno County Interim Health Officer

RV/smg

cc: Joe Prado, Community Health Division Manager, Fresno County Department of Public Health  
David Luchini, Assistant Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health  
David Pomaville, Director, Fresno County Department of Public Health

***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

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