Recommendations to address COVID-19 and Funeral Homes

March 18, 2020

Partners in Health:

The following is guidance provided for funeral directors on behalf of the Weber-Morgan Health Department. We recommend you implement these changes to help safeguard the public’s health from the spread of COVID-19. You can also contact the health department’s information line at 801-399-7777, the Utah Department of Health’s coronavirus website at www.coronavirus.utah.gov, and the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus for more information.

To ensure the risk of spreading COVID-19 is minimized while attending an event at a funeral home facility please implement the following guidance, where possible:

1. Ensure facilities are cleaned and sanitized regularly. Clean high traffic areas and parts of the facilities used most often (door handles, knobs, faucets, toilets, water fountains, as well as any surface that comes into human contact) following CDC cleaning and disinfection guidance.
2. Consider limiting hot beverage services to the public. In its place, consider serving bottled beverages upon request.
3. Following recommended Utah Department of Health guidelines, implement social-distancing practices (distances of 6 ft) between visitors and family members.
4. Following recommended CDC guidelines, public events need to be kept to a maximum of 10 people or less. Work with the family of the deceased to identify how this can be accomplished.
5. Following recommended CDC guidelines, ask for those who are feeling ill to not attend the services in-person.
6. Provide hand sanitizer and Kleenex when available.
7. For those visiting your facility, ensure they cover their coughs, cover their sneezes, and ensure they are not ill.
8. Where available and at the family’s discretion, implement a livestream of the funeral to limit the amount of people who come in contact with each other.
9. Provide graveside services for 10 members or less and plan a larger celebration of life at a later date.

We understand this guidance may seem less personal; however, we feel it necessary to provide a safe space to honor the life of our loved ones who have passed away and decrease the probability of spreading COVID-19. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Weber-Morgan Health Department’s information line, 801-399-7777.

Sincerely,

Brian Bennion, MPA
Executive Director