



## **Coronavirus update and advice for funerals**

July 2021

Bishops Tachbrook  
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This specific funeral protocol is for Oakley Wood Crematorium and natural burial ground, and at Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth and Milverton Cemeteries.

Whilst most legal restrictions have been lifted, it is still possible to catch and spread Covid-19 even if you are fully vaccinated. Cases are high and everybody needs to act carefully, remain cautious, keep each other safe and ensure that our cemeteries and crematorium can remain open.

The government have issued guidance during the coronavirus pandemic for [arranging or attending a funeral](#), the [safe use of places of worship](#), and for [managing a funeral](#), the Director for Public Health in Warwickshire has issued specific local advice recommending key protection measures remain in place.

### **Funeral ceremonies at Oakley Wood Crematorium**

The maximum number of mourners for the NORTH chapel is 84 people

The maximum number of mourners for the SOUTH chapel is 45 people.

- Anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms must not attend.
- Anyone who is required to self-isolate, even if they do not have symptoms, should not attend.
- Download the [NHS COVID-19 app](#) and check into the venue by scanning the official NHS QR code displayed at the entrance to the chapel you are attending.
- If appropriate, mourners can participate remotely. There is guest Wi-Fi available in both chapels or [live webcasting](#) available in the NORTH chapel.
- Use the hand sanitiser before entering the chapel.
- Please wear a face covering before entering the chapel and keep it on until you leave.
- Anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable may wish to advise attendees that they are vulnerable and ask them to avoid close contact at any point.
- If you are taking part in readings, you should not share the lectern or microphone with the minister or celebrant who is leading the ceremony.
- If singing, chanting or playing a musical instrument that is blown into is essential during the service this is limited to one person who may sing but must stay behind the safety screen.
- Waiting rooms are only to allow visitors access to toilet facilities.
- Do not enter the chapel until asked to do so by the Chapel Attendant.
- Ceremony times have been shortened to 45 minutes, which includes the time to enter and leave the chapel. This is to give sufficient time to clean between services.
- Touching the coffin is not recommended, if the curtains are not being closed wave goodbye when you exit the chapel instead.



- Family bearers may be allowed subject to a suitable risk assessment being provided and approved in advance.
- There is no access into the crematory for funeral directors or family members, except where a faith or belief has a tradition of witnessing the coffin being placed into the cremator. This can be a maximum of 4 people, subject to them being named on the specific risk assessment in advance.

### **Bereavement office**

To reduce personal contact, the office is locked.

- Paperwork should be sent electronically to [oakley.wood@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:oakley.wood@warwickdc.gov.uk)
- Cremated remains may be collected or returned only by prearranged appointments.
- All enquiries please telephone the office 01926 651418 or email [oakley.wood@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:oakley.wood@warwickdc.gov.uk).

### **Burials**

Full burial services are continuing as normal.

There are no limits to the number of mourners, but they are politely requested to remain a safe distance away from burial staff.

- Touching the coffin is not recommended
- Family bearers or backfilling the grave may be allowed subject to a suitable risk assessment being provided and approved in advance.
- The chapel in Kenilworth cemetery can be used for ceremonies, with similar restrictions in place to those at Oakley Wood Crematorium. There is no Wi-Fi facility in the chapel and the maximum number of mourners is 25 inside the chapel.

### **Government updates**

You can find all the latest guidance and advice from HM Government, Public Health England and the NHS:

[Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) - the latest situation and guidance

[Public Health England](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england) - what you need to know

[NHS.UK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) - for information about the virus and how to protect yourself

**Please be aware that the situation is ever evolving and guidance may have changed since the time of making the funeral arrangements.**