

Registrar's COVID-19 Update:

Attendance Guidance:

Changes to funeral and visitation attendance

BAO

Bereavement
Authority of
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Agenda

1. **Registrar's June 13 Directive:**
Changes to funeral and visitation attendance
2. **Rescindment of Prohibition of Witnessing Cremations**
3. **BAO Attendance Guidance: Funerals & Visitations**
4. Change to the **Expedited Death Response** (hospitals)
5. Questions

Register's Directive: Changes to funeral and visitation attendance

- ❖ Subject to certain conditions, a new COVID-19 maximum attendance restriction allows for 30 per cent capacity for indoor funerals and visitations, and 50 attendees for outdoor services
- ❖ If the “certain conditions” are not met, then the *Max-10* rule still applies
 - More on this in the **BAO Attendance Guidance** slides

Registrar's Directives Prohibiting Witnessing of Cremations Rescinded June 15

Rescinded effective immediately

- ❖ Refers to the April 21 '[In-Person Witnessing at Cremations Prohibited](#)' and the April 22 '[Addendum to: In-Person Witnessing at Cremations Prohibited](#)'
- ❖ **Witnessing may now occur** with attendees' numbers limited to 30 per cent of the facilities permitted occupancy rating
 - That rating is reduced by physical distancing requirements of two metres of separation among people

Registrar's Directives Prohibiting Witnessing of Cremations Rescinded June 15

Rescinded effective immediately

❖ Prohibition served its purpose

- The BAO's recent survey of crematorium operators demonstrated that operators are able to safely accommodate witnessing and scheduled holds with the current demand on capacity
- Pushing of a button to start the cremation will also again be permitted

❖ Crematorium operators may add restrictions

❖ Rescindment reflected in **BAO Attendance Guidance**



BAO Attendance Guidance: Funerals and Visitations

❖ This Guidance supports the BAO's June 13 Revised Registrar's Directive

- "...**Subject to certain conditions**, the COVID-19 maximum attendance restriction allows for **30 per cent capacity for indoor funerals and visitations, and 50 attendees for outdoor funeral services.**"
- ❖ **Note:** Max-10 Registrar's Directive remains in place, with the new '30% indoor / 50 attendees outdoor' allowance being exemptions if – and only if – the ***conditions*** of the June 13 Registrar's Directive are met.
 - The '***conditions***' are as follows in the next slides



Indoor or Outdoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ For indoor or outdoor funeral and visitation gatherings, the **funeral director (FD) is responsible** for all family and visitors, and their adherence to all current measures in government laws/restrictions and BAO Registrar's Directives, Notices and Guidance, including those which occur in a place of worship.
- ❖ All persons attending the gathering must remain at least two metres (six feet) apart from each other and from persons conducting the funeral, unless they are members of the same household.



Indoor or Outdoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ For every 10 people, there must be at least one funeral home staff member to monitor and ensure physical distancing of two metres.
- ❖ Continue logging/guest-booking of all family and visitors to each funeral and visitation for contact tracing purposes, in the event that this becomes needed.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer must be provided for visitors throughout funeral home facilities.



Indoor Funerals & Visitations

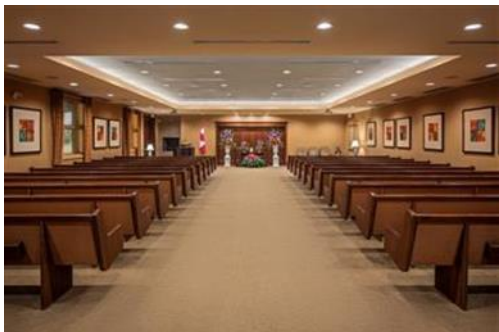
- ❖ The persons conducting the funeral or visitation (**under the responsibility of the FD**) must ensure that the number of persons occupying any room in the building or structure **does not exceed 30 per cent of the capacity of the particular room**
 - – While maintaining physical distancing





Indoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ You must consider that **30 per cent capacity is diminished by physical distancing, pews and furniture.**
 - Therefore, each funeral home must calculate how many people can actually be accommodated, while complying with the two-metre physical distancing rule. This will likely be much less than a venue's posted occupancy capacity.
 - The number of people permitted includes clergy, officiants and musicians, but does not include funeral home staff.



- Examples - A room of 200 square metres (2,150 square feet) has an Ontario Building Code capacity of 190 people. However, 30 per cent capacity and physical distancing will reduce the total number permitted to 36 people. Similarly, a 25x25 square foot room has a normal capacity of 60 people, but the 30 per cent rule and physical distancing will shrink that number to 10 people.



Indoor Funerals & Visitations

❖ **Mandatory: Wearing of masks, or face coverings**

- **By everyone**
- **This includes all staff and attendees**
 - Paper disposable masks are sufficient
 - no need for N95s
 - People may wear their own masks or face coverings.



❖ **Current US research: Masks reduce infection**

- The study — by experts from **Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Austin, University of California and California Institute of Technology** — compared transmission of the virus and preventative measures in New York City and Italy, where mask-wearing became mandatory part way through the pandemic. **“Wearing a mask is the most effective way to prevent transmission of the coronavirus in public settings...masks protect against inhaling droplets.”**



Indoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ Persons conducting the funeral must ensure that it is **conducted in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials**, including any advice, recommendations or instructions on physical distancing, cleaning or disinfecting.
- ❖ Persons conducting the funeral must **ensure that all spaces** including washrooms that have been made available to persons attending the gathering **are cleaned and disinfected on a continuous basis** by staff dedicated to this purpose.





Indoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ The persons conducting the funeral must ensure that in the case of multiple visitation periods, **attendees must wait in their car** until permitted access to the visitation.
- ❖ **There must not be a gathering of people** congregating outside of their vehicles waiting for their turn.





Outdoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ Persons conducting the funeral and visitation must ensure that no more than 50 people are in attendance
- ❖ **(The FD is responsible for ensuring this.)**
 - The number of people permitted includes clergy, officiants and musicians, but does not include funeral home staff.
 - Everyone must be two metres apart – unless they are of the same household.





Cemeteries

- ❖ At cemetery, for every 10 people there must be one funeral home staff member to monitor physical distancing (**FD is responsible**).
- ❖ Cemetery operators may choose to restrict graveside to family only, with physical distancing in place. This will continue to be supported by the BAO.
- ❖ Cemetery operators may continue to further restrict attendance, in addition to restrictions already in place by government and the BAO, including those in this Attendance Guidance. FDs should communicate these restrictions to the families in advance of the service.





Crematoriums

- The BAO Registrar's Directives regarding witnessing and scheduled holds of cremations **are RESCINDED**.
- (April 21- [In-Person Witnessing at Cremations Prohibited](#); and the April 22 – [Addendum to: In-Person Witnessing at Cremations Prohibited](#)).
- **Witnessing can now occur with attendees' numbers limited to 30 per cent of the facilities permitted occupancy rating reduced by physical distancing requirements (two metres of separation between people).**



EDR

❖ Notice to the Profession:

EDR discontinued in hospitals

➤ effective June 17

- ❖ As of 8 a.m. tomorrow, June 17, hospitals will no longer send EDR forms to the OCC in order to obtain a Medical Certificate of Death (MCOD).
- ❖ **Please remember that a hard copy of the MCOD must now be prepared by hospitals for funeral homes, as electronic copies from the OCC Team will no longer be provided.**
 - ❖ The timeframe and processes for hospitals and families selecting and contacting a funeral home will return to practices that existed prior to the EDR. Unless there is an outbreak at a hospital, funeral homes will return to their regular processes for transferring deceased patients. As usual, there may be delays in hospitals changing their procedures – please have patience and communicate with them to ensure a mutual understanding of their protocols.



EDR still in place at LTCs

- ❖ The EDR remains in place for long-term care (LTC) facilities
- ❖ This means the 12-hour timeframe for LTC facilities to submit reports, with the family's selection of a funeral home to the OCC Team, remains in place.

EDR does not, and did not, apply to

❖ Retirement homes

- Note that: Retirement homes do not have to bag and tag deceased residents and move them to the transfer staff at the entrance doors, even if the retirement home is attached to an LTC facility.

❖ Hospices

❖ Homes

- apartments, condos, houses



Concluding remarks / Questions?

- ❖ In last week's webinar, I said:
 - **Change will be a constant, more than ever**
- ❖ That continues to prove itself true

❖ **Ready Together - BAO COVID-19 info page**

<https://thebao.ca/covid-19-update-links/>