



COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR FUNERAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Lummi Nation Shelter In Place Order

On March 22, 2020, the Lummi Nation approved a mandate for all residents to shelter in place, which will remain in effect until May 4, 2020 11:59pm (unless extended), to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This means all residents of the Lummi Nation are required to stay in their homes at all times, unless for accessing essential activities. All residents are restricted from travel and from gatherings of people that do not reside in the same residence.

Lummi Funeral Support Staff

The Funeral Support Specialist will be available to administer funeral support services via telephone, email or zoom conferencing with immediate family. A Purchase Order for clothing (for the deceased) and a Purchase Order for flowers will be delivered to family. The funeral costs to funeral home (up to \$4400) will be covered by the Lummi Funeral Support Program.

Family Speaker

The name of the family speaker must be provided to the Funeral Support Office. The family speaker will assist in the COVID-19 funeral protocol as follows: 1) To convey to family the importance of adhering to the COVID-19 Protocol Funeral provisions; 2) To play the role of Sergeant-At-Arms in enforcing the guidelines, and 3) To record the names of family members in attendance at the burial (attendance tracker) and to turn-in list to the Lummi Public Health Department at the Lummi Health Center.

Family Gatherings are restricted

The Funeral Support Specialist will work with the identified next-of-kin for the immediate-family-only (husband, wife, child, grandparent). Gatherings of individuals who do not normally live in the same household are not allowed at this time. This includes the gathering of bereaving families.

Dressing

It is required that the Moles Funeral Home staff will conduct the dressing for all bodies.

Services

Immediate-Family-Only Graveside services will occur with the following recommendations: 1) Gatherings limited to 10 people or less and 2) All individuals maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any person who is not a member of their immediate household.

Social Distancing Guidelines

As COVID-19 continues to be transmitted and spread within the surrounding areas, it is imperative that social distancing guidelines (of maintaining a distance of at least six feet from any person) are strictly followed. Our commitment to keeping our distance helps to control the spread of COVID-19, decrease the burdens on hospitals and equipment supplies, and reduce the number of infections and deaths caused by this disease.

Limit Attendance

Attendance at the Funeral services should be **limited** to the greatest extent possible. It is requested that immediate-family-only (direct relative shall mean spouse, child or grandparents) that reside within Whatcom County are allowed at the graveside services.

Protect Elders

Elders and those with underlying health conditions such as COPD, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or heart disease, who are most at risk for a serious viral infection, should not attend.

If elders are in attendance, it should be a **priority** that all attendees limit contact with elders and provide them ample space (6 feet) to follow social distancing.

Limit Person-To-Person Contact

Even though someone is not feeling sick, they may still have the novel coronavirus and transmit it to others. Limiting contact with others is the best way to ensure the virus does not spread. This includes:

- Strongly encouraging all attendees wear masks and wash hands frequently. If there are no hand washing stations, hand sanitizer should be used frequently and after handling any items that are handled by multiple people
- Use disinfecting wipes on all hard surfaces and prioritize multiple cleanings to surfaces that will be touched frequently such as door handles
- Standing 6 feet away from others who are not a member of your immediate household
- No handshakes and hugs
- No gathering to share food or a meal
- Refrain from Give-away items and Hysh'ques until a later date
- Traditional burnings will be postponed to a later date

ATTENDANCE TRACKING

One attendee (family representative) will be responsible for logging the names of all attendees. This attendance log will be provided to the Lummi Public Health Department at the Health Center and will be kept confidential. This log will be referenced for exposure tracking in the event a funeral attendee tests positive for COVID-19 in the two weeks following the funeral.

Prepared and Submitted by Vernell Lane, Funeral Support Specialist

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