

# Covid-19: What to do when someone has died

This guide provides an overview of some of the resources available to support people who have lost someone to illness or Covid-19, including bereavement support. These resources can help make sense of the changes to health and social care systems as a result of Covid-19. For those who have lost a loved one, support is available during this difficult time.

## What to do when someone dies

A checklist on what to do after a death - how to register the death, notify government departments and manage financial issues:

<https://www.gov.uk/when-someone-dies>

Covid-19: death certification and cremation. British Medical Association (BMA) guidance for GPs has been produced to outline the key issues, protocols and principles that should be considered during this time for verification of death, and cremations forms.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/practical-guidance/covid-19-death-certification-and-cremation>

## Care of the deceased

This guidance has been developed to ensure that:

- Those people who have died as a result of Covid-19 are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect
- Bereaved people and those who work in services that care for the deceased are protected from infection

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased?utm\\_source=3dccc9f0-8987-4892-92c8-ce5c06376e3a&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased?utm_source=3dccc9f0-8987-4892-92c8-ce5c06376e3a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)



## What do I need to think about when arranging a funeral?

Age UK general guidance. When arranging a funeral, it is certainly worth considering the following before you contact a funeral director:

- Who you want to attend, being mindful of those in high-risk groups
- Arranging service sheets as service books are unlikely to be available
- Recording the eulogy on a phone or other recording device so those not in attendance can listen or watch at another time
- Services may need to be shorter so the venue can be cleaned between services
- Organising a celebration of life or memorial for a later date, when it is safe to do so
- Social distancing requirements
- Whether it is appropriate for family members to bear the coffin

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/coronavirus-guidance/arranging-a-funeral--coronavirus-advice/>

<https://www.coop.co.uk/funeralcare/coronavirus>

## The Inter Faith Network on funerals

The website below contains guidance from faith communities and community organisations on funeral rites and practices during the Covid-19 pandemic:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/covid-19-funerals>

## Dealing with bereavement and grief

Bereaved people may have to deal with increased trauma during this time and may be cut off from some of their usual support network. Those who are already struggling with bereavement, or whose relatives or friends die through other causes will also be affected.

This UK government leaflet shares important information to help bereaved families, friends or next of kin make important decisions during the Covid-19 pandemic and explains the next steps and where you can find extra help and support:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-the-bereaved>

CRUSE have put together these resources to share how bereavement and grief may be affected by this pandemic:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief>

