

Funeral Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Maniilaq is working to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our region but need your help. One area that poses a potential risk of exposure, but is very sensitive in our region is funeral services. We offer the following recommendations for funeral services with the utmost respect for the families who have lost loved ones.

1. Cancel or postpone funeral services and potlucks if at all possible. If not, consider limiting the number people who should attend. NWAB says to avoid groups of 10 or more.
2. If the service is going to proceed, consider the following protective measures to limit the spread of COVID-19:
 - Consider asking that only immediate family members participate in the service.
 - Make an announcement at the beginning of the service that vulnerable groups (Elders, diabetics, other people with existing chronic health conditions), should seriously consider their risk of being at the service.
 - **If you're sick or a close contact of a COVID-19 individual do not attend the service.**
 - Cover your cough.
 - No handshaking, hugging, or kissing.
 - Wash hands after interacting with friends & family at the service.
 - Have hand sanitizer at the service.
 - If possible, have people sit at least 6 feet away from each other.
 - This is a tough one: see if the family would forgo the procession after the service (i.e., the line of people who either come to view the body and pay last respects, or hug and shake family member's hands).
3. If anyone is feeling symptoms (fever, dry cough, shortness of breath), please call the Maniilaq Hotline: 833-442-7015.

Healthy people, thriving communities.