

Coronavirus: Funerals and memorials

When someone dies we usually have a funeral service. Funerals are important because:

- They help to make the death seem real.
- They give us chance to share our thoughts and feelings about the person who died.
- It helps us say goodbye to the person.
- They bring families and friends together to support each other.

At the moment, funerals are changing because of the coronavirus. When groups of people come together, they might catch or pass on the coronavirus. At the moment:

- Only close family will be able to go to the funeral.
- Funeral services may be much shorter.
- You may have to wait a long time to hold a funeral.

Tips for how to help yourself and others

If you cannot go to the funeral:

- It may be possible for someone to record or film the funeral.
- You may be able to write or record a message to be read out or played at the funeral. Contact your funeral director for advice.
- Ask those who were there to call you and tell you about it.
- You could have a memorial in the future to remember the person who has died.
- You could set time aside to have your own private goodbye.

You could hold your own memorial at home. You could:

- Look at pictures.
- Play some of the person's favourite music.
- Write a message to them.
- Light a candle.
- Follow any of your own cultural or religious rituals.

If you know someone who can't go to the funeral of someone close:

- Stay in touch after the funeral, and let them know you are thinking of them.
- Share your memories of the person who died.