

<b>Report on</b>	Updated Covid19 Guidance for Handling the Infection Risks when Caring for the Deceased and Managing Funerals
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Eunan Murray, Grounds and Cemeteries Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the latest guidance from the Department of Health on the Handling of Infection Risks when Caring for the Deceased and Managing Funerals.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Members will recall the temporary measures that were previously put in place to protect the public and staff during the process of managing burials and cemetery operations in response to the Covid19 pandemic in accordance with government guidance (as per addendum to Cemetery Rules and Regulations – copy attached).
2.2	As restrictions have eased the protection measures in place have gradually been removed/relaxed to the point where only the 2 metre social distancing rule remained
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	On the 26 <sup>th</sup> May correspondence was received from the Department of Health Chief Medical Officer advising of a change to the guidance for handling the infection risks when caring for the deceased and managing funerals (copy attached at appendix).
3.2	This change relates to the removal of the recommendation to maintain a 2 metre social distance between households at funeral services, committals and within funeral homes.
3.3	The related guidance has now been updated to reflect this change which came into effect on Friday 27 May (a full copy of the amended guidance is attached).
3.4	The guidance is primarily designed to assist Funeral Directors in Northern Ireland in the management of a funeral, and any related gatherings, following a death from any cause during the Covid19 pandemic

3.5	The updated guidance has been circulated to Council Cemetery staff and Funeral Directors who operate in the area.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: The guidance is based on the current Covid19 situation and remains under review. It will be updated, as required, should circumstances change again in the future.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report and updated guidance.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Previous Covid19 Addendum to Cemetery Rules and Regulations
6.2	Appendix 2 – Correspondence from Chief Medical Officer dated 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
6.3	Appendix 3 – Updated DoH Guidance for handling the infection risks when caring for the deceased and managing funerals.