



**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE –
MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**REPORT BY: CLERK TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE, and
THE MANAGER AND REGISTRAR**

**PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 RESPONSE –
UPDATE**

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the current situation now that most legal restrictions to control Covid-19 have been lifted, and the way in which Portchester Crematorium has responded.

2. Recommended that the current arrangements and action taken be noted.

3. Background

3.1 The Joint Committee at its meeting on the 28 September 2020 received a comprehensive report on the action taken by Portchester Crematorium in responding to Parliament's' emergency legislation in March 2020 and subsequent government regulations and guidance on dealing with Coronavirus.

3.2 In summary, the key steps taken by the Crematorium at that time included –

- Limiting the number of mourners at each service, with a requirement since August 2020 attendees wear face coverings;
- A prohibition on singing and chanting or the playing of instruments that are blown;
- Cleaning and sanitising between each service pews, chairs, doors and hard surfaces;
- Test and Trace recording including QR signage to allow mourners to 'log' attendance at the crematorium;

4. Situation since the 19 July 2021

Most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 were lifted from the 19th July 2021. Advice on the effect of this was circulated to funeral directors and is publicised on the Crematorium's web site, with the following changes being introduced at the Crematorium -

Service Attendance – As there is no longer a need to stay 2 metres apart from people the limit previously imposed on the number of people that can attend a funeral service has been lifted. Hand sanitisers are available, and cleaning and sanitising is carried out after every service.

South Chapel – Families are being advised that at maximum capacity the South Chapel seats 80 people, allowing for 5 people to a bench or 48 people allowing 3 people to a bench, without being overcrowded. This is so that families can make a personal choice on attendance, bearing in mind government advice for the public to exercise caution and consider the risks over gatherings in an enclosed indoor space with limited ventilation and fresh air.

North Chapel - The maximum capacity is 48 people, allowing for 4 seats in each row or 36 people, allowing for 3 people to a row, without being overcrowded.

Face Coverings – The advice given is that as the chapels are an enclosed indoor space with limited ventilation and fresh air, and may be crowded with people from multiple households, mourners attending services should continue to wear face coverings when gathered in the chapel.

Singing – Although this is no longer prohibited the risk of passing or catching Covid-19 is greatest where risk factors overlap, for example in crowded indoor spaces where people are singing and raising their voices. Families have been asked to consider this when making a personal choice on music and singing at a service.

The Book of Remembrance Room is open with some restrictions in place on the number of visitors allowed in the room at any one time and with a one-way flow to enter and exit the room and follow social distancing.

The Garden of Remembrance is open with the public being asked to be respectful of others when visiting, and make space for other people to keep their distance if they want to.

Test and Trace – This continues to operate including QR signage.

Crematorium Office – This is now open again to members of the public.

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John Haskell
Clerk to the Joint Committee

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Victoria Hatton
Manager & Registrar

Background List of Documents –
Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972: *None*

JH/me
7 September 2021