



ANGLICAN EAST NL

Guidelines for Outdoor Flower/Cemetery Services The Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador 30 May 2021

It is strongly recommended that flower services be offered by virtual means as opposed to an in person gathering. Although outside is considered a safer environment for gathering, it still carries risk especially when large numbers of people from varying households and areas are gathering in the one space. This risk is amplified with the presence of Variants of Concern, such as the Variant first identified in India which is of recent concern in our province.

Under current Government restrictions, outdoor flower services are permitted in so far as the total number of people gathered does not exceed 100 people. For larger cemeteries, the ability to keep the size of the gathering below 100 people may be problematic. Parishes with larger cemeteries, or whose flower services traditionally attract a large number of people, will have to consider offering a virtual flower service versus an in person gathering.

All attendees must register and screen for the flower service, in advance of the service, and contact tracing information must be compiled and retained. The protocols surrounding registering, screening, and contact tracing lists would be the same as for an indoor worship gathering. Anyone who should fail to pre-register and pre-screen, yet wish to attend the flower service may do so in so far as the 100 person gathering limit is not exceeded and the parish has the means to register and screen individuals upon arrival without creating a bottleneck at the entrance to the cemetery. It is suggested that a space away from the entrance point to the cemetery be designated for registering and screening. As individuals are identified at the entrance whose names do not appear on the registration list, they can be directed to that space for registration and screening prior to entry to the cemetery.

Hand sanitation stations should be made available at the entrance to the cemetery, and a supply of non-medical masks. Contactless trash bins should be made available for discarding trash, tissues and masks, which may otherwise become a public health hazard if left on the ground.

High touch surfaces, such as gates, should be disinfected regularly if multiple people are touching them. Consideration should be made to propping open gates, and eliminating high touch surfaces and items, wherever possible.

Physical distancing between household bubbles (a household plus their consistent 20 regular close contacts) must be maintained at all times. In instances where physical distance may be compromised, a non-medical mask must be worn. Thus, it is suggested that when people are moving about, masks should be utilized. When people are stationary and distanced, masks may be removed.

Single use Bulletins, Orders of Service, Common Use Service Books and Hymn Books may be distributed by an individual (or individuals in so far as they are physically distanced from other volunteers). Such individuals should be masked, sanitize their hands often, and keep their hands away from their face. Such individuals should maintain physical distancing from attendees in so far as is practical and possible.

Donations may be accepted through online means or by way of a drop box at the entrance to the cemetery. "Taking up" Collection by moving about the gathering, or passing around a collection bag or plate, is not permitted.

Singing by those gathered is permitted in so far as physical distance is maintained while doing so. Masks are not necessary while singing, yet encouraged for those comfortable in doing so. There is no restriction as to the number or duration of hymns that can be shared, yet they should be kept to a minimum and should not be sung in succession – there should be time allotted between hymns either for prayer or silence. If there is a music offering while people gather or depart, such offering should be done by a small group (such as a soloist or band) or by means of pre-recorded music.

The sharing of microphones is permitted in so far as it is disinfected between users. Podiums utilized by more than one person will need to be disinfected between users as well. Masks may be removed by anyone speaking, yet should be worn while moving about and can be removed again once stationary and distanced from others.

Should a flower service have to be moved indoors due to inclement weather, the guidelines as provided for in the Many Members document will come into force and take precedence over any, and all, of the above.

The Venerable Charlene Taylor
Executive Officer
Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador