



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

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## **ESSENTIAL STATUS CLARIFICATION FOR FUNERAL HOMES**

**April 6, 2020**

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the COVID-19 respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus is now present in over 171 nations worldwide, including the United States. On March 17, 2020, Governor Sisolak issued a [non-essential business closure order](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Nevada. The first cases of COVID-19 in Nevada were reported in Clark County, and have since been reported in counties statewide.

As funeral homes have been deemed an essential business<sup>i</sup>, please review the following information and implement preventative measures in continued daily operations:

- Funeral homes **are** considered an essential service through essential healthcare/public health services<sup>i</sup>.
- Under this provision, essential services **are** expected to abide by social distancing protocols outlined by the [CDC](#).
- The [National Funeral Directors Association](#) advises funeral homes to abide by protocols outlined in this guidance.
- The [CDC](#) provides frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 and funerals.
- **NEVADA Restrictions on Public Gatherings:** On March 24, Governor Sisolak issued a directive relating to [public gatherings](#), requiring individuals to **avoid gathering in groups of greater than 10** in public and private spaces, unless the individuals live in the same household, are working or shopping at an essential business; or are providing an essential service. This directive includes outdoor areas.
  - In determining whether to conduct funeral and memorial services, please take into consideration [CDC social distancing guidelines](#), ensuring individual attendees are provided with a minimum of six feet of separation between persons.
  - The National Funeral Directors Association has [alternative suggestions](#) for funeral and memorial services Funeral Homes can offer to clients while maintaining proper social distancing practices.

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<sup>i</sup> See [Governor Sisolak Guidance: Directive 003 – Essential & Non-Essential Businesses \(UPDATED\)](#) and [CISA Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure workforce](#).