

GUIDANCE FOR WAKES/ FUNERALS

IN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19



The goals of this guidance are to protect people attending gatherings from COVID-19 infection; and to reduce community transmission and introductions of COVID-19 into new communities.

FUNERALS HAVE SHOWN TO LEAD TO OUTBREAKS IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THE FUNERAL SHOULD BE DELAYED AND TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM!

Effective December 17, 2020:

- Indoor gatherings in private homes is limited to immediate household members only - those that live in the home regularly. This means you cannot visit with those outside of your own household, so the wake should not occur in your home. This also means that out of town guests should be discouraged unless they can stay at a hotel in their own family group. They cannot stay with family in the community.
- Outdoor gatherings are limited to 10 people (2m physically distanced).
- Indoor and outdoor limit in for public facilities for worship services is 30 people and only if 2m distancing can be maintained.
 - Guests should not visit elders for 14 days after the event.
 - Guests should self-monitor for 14 days after a wake service.

LET YOUR GUESTS KNOW AHEAD OF TIME WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 1) Requesting ill guests not to come if they have been in contact with someone with COVID-19.
- 2) Masks are mandatory and attendees should bring their own.
- 3) Anyone who is a close contact, supposed to be isolating, is symptomatic, or has been in close contact with a suspect or presumptive COVID-19 case should not attend.
- 4) Have a sign in sheet to track the names of individual coming to the service (see second page).
- 5) Posting signage to encourage social distancing.
- 6) Limit the amount of time for the funeral.
- 7) Household family members can sit together as a group.
- 8) People should be at least 2m or more from each other at the event.
- 9) Guests should not visit elders for 14 days after the event.
- 10) Guests should self-monitor for 14 days after a wake service.

- **Have an usher/greeter to monitor people and someone in charge of organizing the event to ensure COVID precautions are in place.**
 - For hand sanitizing- Have hand sanitizers readily available, encourage guest to bring their own. Hand sanitizer needs to be at least 70% alcohol minimum with a DIN or NPN on the label to be effective.
 - For pre-screening guests, ask if they are sick or should be isolating, or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19.
 - Monitoring the sign in book and keeping track of names and phone numbers of guests who come.
 - To ensure masks are worn and to ensure physical distancing is maintained.
- **No food or drink service is currently allowed when in public spaces.**
- **As difficult as it is, no hugging, kissing or handshakes should occur during the procession.**
- **Have a separate enter/exit door at event venue, with one way flow through venue.**
- **Microphones should not be shared by multiple people and should be disinfected between uses.**
- **Congregational singing is not recommended** (If someone wishes to sing a song they should be greater than 2 metres from the congregation).
- **Ensure bathrooms are monitored for crowd gathering and is well stocked with hand soap and paper towels and disinfected regularly.**
- **Increased disinfection of high touch surfaces should occur (door knobs/handles, faucet handles, seats etc...)**
- **During the procession for paying last respects to the departed and family, hand sanitizer should be available at three points:**
 - When approaching the body to pay respects;
 - Immediately after the viewing of the body and before paying respects to the family; and
 - As people leave the procession after paying respects to the family.

We know that you are facing an incredibly difficult time with the loss of a loved one but following this guidance will protect loved ones from getting sick after attending the funeral.



Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority Inc.



Participant Attendance List

Name of Event: _____

Date of Event _____

	Last Name	First Name	Phone Contact	Community of Resident
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Please fax completed list to NITHA Public Health at (306) 953-5020

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