



# COVID-19 Funeral Safety Plan and Recommendations

We are sorry for your loss and respectfully provide this information for you and your family to help keep everyone safe during this time of mourning. We understand, paying the proper respects to our deceased is a profound and integral part of our Shoshone and Bannock culture. The traditional events following a death typically involve a large crowd, direct contact with the body, and feeding family, friends and community members. Although, during this pandemic we need to assure safety guidelines are provided for the safety of your family and the community.

The following 2022 Funeral Safety Plan and Recommendations is provided by the Tribal Office of Emergency Management (TOEM) of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in positive cases on the Fort Hall Reservation, this safety plan and recommendation list will assist families in minimizing the spread of the virus in our community. During this pandemic, the lead contact is the Tribes Incident Commander (IC), Eric King.

As a result of the transmission threat of COVID-19, the following safety plan and recommendations related to funeral activities shall be in effect immediately until notice is given by the Fort Hall Business Council and/or TOEM.

**The following steps is the notification process for a funeral:**

1. According to the Tribes current funeral process, upon a Tribal member passing, a family member is advised to contact the Tribes Enrollment Department at 208-478-3839 to report & access the Tribes Burial Grant. Eligibility of receiving a burial grant will be provided at time of request. Once contact is made with Enrollment, a representative from the Enrollment Department shall contact the IC, Eric King, for the COVID pandemic within 24-hours of their notification. This representative shall give the IC the name of a family contact person and their contact number (complete attached sheet). For weekend services, Enrollment can be reached on cell at 208-251-4842.
2. The IC shall contact the person representing the family of the deceased within 24 hours of their notification. This designated family representative must work with IC on implementation of the COVID-19 safety measures.
3. The IC will make contact with the Tribes Supply Officer to request Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the funeral. Once the order is compiled the supply officer shall contact IC and have a representative pick up the order and deliver the same day to the funeral. IC will contact the designated family representative listed on this sheet.
4. PPE supplies include face masks and gloves for those attending the funeral. Note: Wash stations are currently not available until mid-August 2020. Until then, there is no wash stations available.
5. Tribal Health staff shall be available to meet with the family to advise and answer any COVID-19 questions or concerns. Contact Tribal Health at 208-478-3965.
6. It is recommended that no funeral services shall take place at any district lodges due to the limited size of the district buildings or lodges. Social distancing is key to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

7. It is recommended that the funeral home dress the decedent body; clothes and items may be provided to the home. The funeral home is equipped with proper safety equipment and understands the appropriate protocol for such safety reasons. The funeral home will be asked if one or two family members or a designated individual (wear a mask) may be present during the dressing to adhere to the cultural/custom ways if personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and universal precautions can be followed. To learn more about funeral process during the COVID-19, click on the National Funeral Directors Association webpage to review such procedures and protocols.
8. It is recommended that following the dressing of the body, that there shall be safety regulations put forth on a limited and/or small viewing to help minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. Limiting common activities during a viewing such as hugging, shaking hands, etc. could spread COVID-19.
9. It is recommended that only graveside services can be performed at this time and 6 feet distancing rule must be adhered to during this service.
10. It is recommended that funerals be limited to only immediate family only. Notice will be provided if the graveside service is open or closed to the public. No handshaking or hugging should be allowed during the service due to the spread of COVID-19.
11. It is recommended that the family not provide a feast or buffet lines after the service. Sack lunches to-go may be provided as long as the 6 feet rule can be maintained during distribution and consumption. Those persons preparing any sack lunches should also be mindful of safety protocols during the preparation of any foods by wearing gloves and a facemask.
12. It is recommended that traditional giveaways be conducted following safety measures, including social/physical distancing, face masks and gloves must be worn by the individuals who distribute the items.

13. It is recommended that those people who enter into the tipi or tent, shall be limited to 3-4 people at a time, to ensure social distancing and to protect the family members who are inside the tent/tipi.

**The PPE and supplies that can be given to funeral gatherings shall include:**

- 3-ply face masks (list quantity below)
- Face shields in the event a patron is unable to wear a face mask. (optional)
- Gloves (list quantity & size below)

**The recommendation to those overseeing a funeral is to:**

- Immediate family only.
- No buffet style serving. Bagged foods only.
- Maintain 6-foot social distancing
- Must mandate everyone to wear a face mask during the services at all times.
- Have hand sanitizer available on hand and accessible to all
- Do not shake hands or hug
- If anyone is feeling sick please advise them to stay home or stay in the vehicle.

Contact Sheet / PPE Form

This contact sheet is to identify PPE items for your family funeral. The individual listed below will be the designated point of contact by the Tribes Incident Commander to assure PPE is identified and delivered to the funeral. Information contained on this form shall be held in confidence by TOEM.

1. Name of designated family member for the funeral, include relationship:

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2. Phone number of designated family member:

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3. Location of funeral (please include district and any specific landmarks to help with location find):

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**PPE LIST (please complete): ITEM QUANTITY SIZE**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>SIZE</b>
3 PLY FACEMASK		
FACE SHIELDS		
GLOVES		S__ M__ L__ XL__