Funerals and graveside services can take place with the following requirements

- Services may be conducted indoors or outdoors, based on family preference and religious custom.
  - If conducted outdoors, there is no limit on attendance as long as physical distancing of 6 feet between parties can be maintained.
  - If conducted indoors, attendance must be limited to 25% of legal occupancy for the building or room where the service is held or 100 people, whichever is lower.
    - The limit on number of attendees must take into account mourners, any clergy, musicians or others participating in the service, funeral home staff, staff of the location at which the event takes place and any others present during the event.
- Whether indoors or out, physical distancing rules must be followed.
  - Note that physical distancing requirements DO NOT apply to members of a single household. Individuals who live together may be seated or stand next to each other with a 6 foot space between the household group and any other attendees.
  - If outdoors, funeral staff may guide attendees to spots that are 6 feet apart, use markings to define appropriate spacing or use other means to assure an adequate distance between mourners.
  - If indoors, furniture must be arranged to create a 6 foot zone around each seated party (household group or individual).
  - Parents or other household members must assure the safe participation of children in attendance. Depending on the child’s age and family preference:
    - Children may be carried or placed in a stroller or other carrier during the service;
    - Children may be seated or stand at the side of a responsible adult; or
    - Children may be permitted to stand or sit apart from the group of mourners but close enough for careful oversight by an adult.
    - It is the responsibility of the invited family to instruct their children not to touch anyone who is not part of their household or any item that does not belong to them.
  - Staff are deployed as needed to assure appropriate physical distancing and to direct traffic flow at different stages of the event.
- Steps must be taken to avoid spread of COVID-19 among participants in the service.
  - Invitees should be instructed to abstain from in-person attendance at the event if they have been identified as having COVID-19, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19* or have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has not been tested but has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
Individuals should be verbally screened for respiratory symptoms or fever as they arrive. Individuals who have respiratory symptoms or fever must be asked to return home to self-isolate. Individuals at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19 infection (persons 65 years of age or older, people with chronic respiratory or immune conditions) are encouraged to abstain from attendance for their own protection.

- The service may be live streamed to permit virtual participation of anyone who cannot safely attend (see webcasting resources from the National Funeral Directors Association). It may also be taped for later viewing.

- All participants other than children under the age of 2 or individuals with conditions that would entail risk are instructed to wear cloth face coverings at all times during the funeral gathering.

- Tissues and alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be provided for use by families and staff, and restrooms should be stocked with an adequate supply of soap and paper towels. Waste bins should be readily available for the disposal of tissues and paper towels.

- People should not touch or kiss the body of someone who has died of COVID-19. If touching occurs, the person should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer prior to touching their face and anything or anyone else.

- Outdoor settings should be used when possible throughout the funeral and related services and events.

- If the service is conducted indoors, doors and windows should be opened if feasible and if weather permits to promote air circulation. Keeping the front door open also averts the need for each arriving party to touch the doorknob or handle.

- Use of shared objects should be limited when possible. Use of objects, equipment, and/or supplies that may be difficult to disinfect or make it hard to ensure physical distancing (e.g. tent walls) should be avoided.
  - If a program is provided for the event, it should be in disposable form.
  - Items that must be shared as part of a particular service are disinfected between users.

- Food may be served as long as food service arrangements permit physical distancing and infection control.
  - No self-serve or buffet food or beverages should be offered.
  - Use of disposable dishes and utensils and easy access to trash receptacles are encouraged.

- The California Department of Public Health directs that “activities such as singing and chanting negate the risk-reduction achieved through six feet of physical distancing” due to an increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets.
  - If done, these activities should be done outdoors with much greater physical distance or through alternative methods (such as internet streaming) that ensure individual congregation members perform these activities separately in their own homes.
  - Please review the updated State Industry Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies here.
*Symptoms of COVID-19 may include some combination of the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle or body pain, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, or new loss of taste or smell. This list of symptoms is not all inclusive.