

Holy Blossom Memorial Park (Brimley Road) COVID-19 Protocols for Interments and Unveilings

Effective April 2021, we ask that, in accordance with the Stay-At-Home orders for the Province of Ontario, you please do not visit our cemetery at this time. If you must come to our cemetery, please abide by the following protocols. Our cemetery building will be closed to the public, including our public washroom.

The cemetery will be open Sundays to Thursdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- 1. All individuals who are in self-quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 are prohibited from attending graveside services and from entering onto the cemetery grounds. If the deceased has died or is suspected to have died from COVID-19 all individuals who had exposure to the deceased during the deceased's illness or within 14 days prior to death are prohibited from attending the graveside services and from entering onto cemetery grounds, unless they provide proof satisfactory to the Clergy, the Funeral Chapel staff and the cemetery staff that they have no quarantine obligations under all applicable laws, regulations, or government or other legislative COVID-19 protocols or directives. All steps permitted by law will be taken to enforce this prohibition, including the reporting of the incident to the police and other applicable authorities.**
2. All individuals who are in self-quarantine due to suspected exposure to COVID-19, and those who are in self-isolation due to recent travel, are also prohibited from attending graveside services and from entering onto cemetery grounds to protect the health of other mourners, Clergy, Funeral Chapel staff and cemetery staff.
3. We urge those who are older, have underlying health conditions or are feeling unwell not to attend graveside services.
4. The Ontario Government has issued Stay-at-Home orders for the province of Ontario and imposed additional COVID-19 restrictions. Consequently, graveside funerals will be limited to a **maximum of 10 persons**. Funeral Chapel staff must provide the cemetery with a list of the 10 persons or less (including clergy) who will be attending the graveside funeral.
5. Individuals attending graveside funerals must remain in their vehicles until they are instructed by cemetery staff and/or Funeral Chapel staff. They also must sign a register with the Funeral Chapel staff and provide contact information should tracing of infection become necessary.
6. All individuals at the service must stand at least 6 feet away from the grave and maintain a physical/social distance of at least 6 feet apart from all persons other than members of their immediate household, including other mourners, Clergy, Funeral Chapel staff, and cemetery staff. Funeral directors/assistants will direct families to create a physical/social distance at graveside of at least 6 feet from one another and will use best efforts to remind families during

the service. At all times, visitors and Funeral Chapel staff must always remain at least 6 feet away from cemetery staff.

7. Only 2 shovels will be provided in order to enable the attending Clergy and one representative family member (please consult with your Clergy to determine who that should be according to Halacha) to throw dirt onto the casket. Once the top surface of only the casket is covered with a layer of dirt, attendees will be expected to complete the service and return to their vehicles and leave the cemetery, after which time, the cemetery staff will complete the filling of the grave. There is to be no passing of shovels. We are expecting that the total attendance time within the cemetery grounds for any graveside funeral will be 45 minutes.
8. All pallbearers must bring and wear gloves and anyone who handles the cemetery's shovels must also be wearing gloves. All gloves, masks, water bottles and other garbage must be deposited in the receptacles provided and must not be left anywhere else on cemetery grounds.
9. The Cemetery is not permitting unveilings while Toronto is under Stay-at-Home orders or in the Grey Zone. However, you can schedule an unveiling, subject to Provincial guidelines and restrictions for future dates. All unveilings must be scheduled through Iris Spitz at ispitz@holyblossom.org. Although best efforts will be made to accommodate the requested date and time of an unveiling, the date and timing will be totally within the discretion of Holy Blossom Temple.
10. As our washrooms are closed to mitigate risk of transmission, visitors should bring their own water for ritual hand washing after their visits. Visitors should remove any garbage they bring to the cemetery, including any water bottles, masks, etc.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during these difficult times. This protocol is subject to change at any time.