



Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association

MEMO TO: All PFDA Members

FROM: David Peak, Jr., PFDA President

DATE: March 17, 2020

RE: PFDA Member Update on COVID-19

Dear Members:

Yesterday, Governor Wolf ordered the closures of all “non-essential businesses” in the Commonwealth in an effort to halt the spread of COVID-19. Members have been inquiring as to whether funeral homes are considered “essential” businesses. With respect to removals from anywhere other than hospitals, the answer is yes. Removals must be made. Funeral services can be made with the following caution: The reason the federal government (limit to gatherings of 10 persons as of this afternoon from President Trump) and the state government have ordered these restrictions is to severely limit human interaction. Therefore, we offer the following suggestions when meeting with families:

- Hold bodies for two weeks +/- . The State Board will grant these extensions liberally.
- Do not have public viewings. Limit it to small family gatherings if you must have any.
- Have memorial services later, after this passes
- No prearrangements should be made unless they are final illness/imminent deaths.

There is no one that is going to tell you to shut your business. However, common sense dictates

online or over the phone, do it. Fax or email the paperwork.

Use universal precautions when doing any removals.

In the end, you certainly do not want to risk yourself or your business by exposing individuals who may/could contract the virus as the result of a viewing, funeral or service.

We will update you as often as we receive any relevant information. Please refer to the [PFDA website](#) for updates.

Sincerely,

David Peake, Jr.
President, PFDA

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