



From The NC Board of Funeral Service

As the Coronavirus continues to spread across the United States, it has direct and immediate impact on North Carolina. With regard to the practice of funeral service, the NC Board of Funeral Service will send you regular updates on the crisis as more information is announced at both the state and federal levels.

As an important first step, please visit the Board website at www.ncbfs.org for links to current, critical sources of information regarding the virus and its impact on our state and profession.

Advisories to Licensees

On behalf of the Board, we want to express our appreciation for the positive feedback on our efforts to keep you informed on a daily basis on issues pertaining to the Coronavirus and its impact on funeral service. We, of course, will continue updates on a regular basis although not necessarily each day. Now that Governor Cooper has issued a Stay-at-Home Order for North Carolina residents, we know that funeral service is deemed an Essential Business and that funerals are permissible for 50 or less individuals to gather at one time. We understand that city or county restrictions may not permit gatherings of that size since greater restrictions may apply where you are located, so please do check with your city or county attorney or your firm's attorney for guidance and clarification as necessary.

We recognize and appreciate your collective efforts in reaching out to local elected officials, public health providers, and law enforcement in determining how best to implement both state and local restrictions on public gatherings. The pandemic has created significant uncertainty for our profession and has presented many unanticipated challenges. As noted in the first advisory on March 16th, "we will get through this together."

Executive Order 121: Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ]

We have posted to the Coronavirus Advisory page on the Board website at www.ncbfs.org additional information concerning the Governor's Executive Order which goes into effect this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. While many of the questions/answers will not apply to funeral service, we hope that you will nevertheless find this information helpful in your work as well as guiding your personal and family activities. You'll find this FAQ listed under Important Information on the Coronavirus page.

Emergency Board Meeting

The Board met this morning at 9:00 a.m. in emergency session to consider a proposal for an emergency administrative rule to allow discretion in the application of its enforcement authority. The Board has authorized General Counsel to file a Notice of Text with the NC Rules Review Commission to proceed with promulgation of rule waivers. We will keep you informed on further action regarding the Board's request to waive rules that are not statutorily required as a practical and sensible way to respond to the challenges resulting from the Coronavirus crisis.

The Board also voted to cancel its April 15, 2020, meeting in response to the provisions outlined in Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 121 and the need to assure we all are keeping social distance in our collective attempt to slow the spread of the virus in North Carolina.

Board Operations

Board staff are now working remotely through telework arrangements, and the office suite in Raleigh, NC remains closed for visitors and walk-ins. We will continue to receive mail and deliveries of reports and other documents that you may wish to hand-deliver. We are temporarily reliant on an automated voice attendant to accept and route incoming calls, and we have routed calls to our office extensions to mobile or land-based phones so that we can retrieve your calls and respond to them as timely as possible. Compliance Inspectors continue to receive calls regarding the Coronavirus for their assigned regions as well as compliance calls when they are on-call for particular day of the week. On-site inspections of licensed funeral establishments and crematories have been temporarily suspended.

We continue to encourage you to use email as a primary means of communication which is a timely and effective way for us to review and then respond to your concerns and issues.

Please know our appreciation for your cooperation and support during this unusual and demanding time for all of us.

By the Numbers

Updated daily by 11 a.m. each day. *Last updated 11:00 a.m., March 30, 2020.*

NC Cases*	NC Deaths**	NC Completed Tests***	Currently Hospitalized
1,307	6	20,864	137

* This number reflects cases that were tested and returned positive, including the NC State Laboratory of Public Health and reporting hospital and commercial labs. All data is preliminary. Not all cases of COVID-19 are tested, so this does not represent the total number of people in North Carolina who have or had COVID-19.

** This number reflects deaths reported to public health in persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. Deaths will be included in this count after confirmation by local public health departments.

*** This number reflects testing completed by the NC State Laboratory of Public Health and reporting hospital and commercial labs.