



Unite
against
COVID-19



Welcome to the September 2021 edition of from “The Lectern” brought to you by The Lychway Funeral Directors.

It has been a busy few months for the Lychway team as winter kicked in and the need to stay cosy and warm in your home or office space became so much more apparent! But wait theres more – Spring is just around the corner!

With the current Covid-19 level 4 lockdown upon us all we would like to remind you that Lychway team are available to respond to your needs during this time. During this time face coverings are mandatory for all our staff and you, our families, when you visit our place; as well as signing in on the Covid App.

The Lychway team are available to you at any time during Covid -10 lockdown

Covid

As at writing we await the possible drop from level 4 to wherever. These times are hard on families not being able to say a proper farewell to their loved ones. Its hard on us as well, being caught between wanting to allow the funeral to go ahead and the law that prevents it.

Funerals and tangihanga at Alert Level 4

Gathering together for funerals and tangihanga is not permitted at Alert Level 4.

This includes:

- public funeral or memorial services
- burials and cremations
- open or closed casket viewings
- tangihanga at marae, funeral homes and churches
- private whānau tangihanga.

This may be a challenging time for you and your family. If you ever feel you are not coping, it is important to talk with a health professional.

For support if you need to talk, you can call or text 1737. It is free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to talk with a trained counsellor.

What to do when someone dies

If someone in your whānau or in your bubble passes away, the following steps can help you make the necessary arrangements:

Contact the health provider or GP of the person who has passed away — ideally this should be done by someone in the same bubble.

Get in touch with a local funeral director who will help you organise next steps.

Māori communities, iwi, hapū and whānau are being encouraged to establish local kaiwhakarite or people who can assist whānau during this time. Get in touch with your iwi and hapū organisations or local marae to see if a kaiwhakarite has already been established.

Funeral services

Funeral directors will continue working during Alert Level 4. They will be able to guide you on the best options for your situation, which may include:

- livestreaming services on social media, or videoing them for later viewing
- holding the funeral or tangi after the Alert Level 4 restrictions ease
- holding a memorial service later, when restrictions on gatherings are lifted and it is safe to do so.

Whānau who have been in the same isolation bubble as the tūpāpaku and other friends and family will not be allowed to go to the funeral home for viewing, karakia, poroporoaki or mihi.

Burials at urupā

Whānau who live in the same region as their whānau urupā can choose to have their loved one buried there. Whānau will need to make the urupā arrangements themselves.

Your local marae can assist whānau by phone, email or video-conference with making these arrangements.

Whānau and friends cannot attend a burial at Alert Level 4.

Funerals and tangihanga at Alert Level 3

At Alert Level 3, you can hold a funeral, tangihanga or burial, but these are limited to 10 people. The 10 person limit includes kaikaranga, kaikōrero, members of the clergy or staff who are attending.

Formal tangihanga involving large gatherings cannot take place at Alert Level 3.

Up to 10 people in the same bubble may go to view the tūpāpaku — the person who has died by appointment with the funeral director. Other whānau can view the body by appointment, but only in groups of up to 10 from the same bubble.

Talk with your funeral director about specific arrangements, including how to maintain physical distance. They can guide you on the best options for your situation, which may include livestreaming or video so others can take part in the service remotely.

No food or drink can be served, and physical distancing should be maintained between people.

If you are attending a funeral or tangihanga, we recommend you:

- keep 2 metres away from people you do not live with
- avoiding physical contact, including harirū, hongis, kissing, and hugging
- wear a face covering.

Providing last rites

At Alert Level 3, priests, imam and religious celebrants can provide last rites in a hospital, hospice or private residence.

In a health facility, they will need to adhere with the relevant visiting policy and infection prevention procedures.

Funeral advice for Muslim communities

Funerals can be officiated by your Imam. Funeral directors will work closely with Muslim communities to support ghusl (ritual washing) and janaza (prayer over the body) being carried out safely. Only 10 people can attend the funeral.

Visiting cemeteries

At Alert Level 3 you can visit a cemetery in your region, if you can do so safely while keeping 2 metres away from people not in your bubble.

Travel for funerals and tangihanga at Alert Level 3

At Alert Level 3 there are strict restrictions in place for travel between regions.

If you need to travel into or out of a region at Alert Level 3 for a funeral or tangihanga you will need to apply for an exemption.

Recently the Funeral Directors Association have started an awareness campaign heading



What does this mean to you?

We come across all too often where a loved one has not prepared for their departure and thus leave those left behind with lots of questions and sometimes uncertainty. Nobody really wants that, so we want to say to you, Take the time to talk ...

To us? Definitely.

To your loved ones – most definitely.

About the things that matter to you and what you want as a last fare well.

The old adage of “just put me in a box and throw me away” doesn’t cut it anymore.

There is a video on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGhOLTKxn74&t=53s> where a daughter tells her story. Its worth the listen.

Call us today for a no obligation chat so you can give your family the simple yet meaningful gift that you took the time to talk



We have added a trainee to our team. Her name is Ashleigh Meyrick. She is new to the funeral industry but very excited about learning everything she can to realise a dream of hers. Ashleigh is married and has a cute wee daughter.

Her words

My name is Ashleigh Meyrick and I have recently joined The Lychway team as a trainee Funeral Director and Embalmer. I feel very privileged to help guide bereaved families and take care of them during this sad time of loss. I have always been passionate about the funeral industry and giving back to the community. Having gained a qualification in Beauty Therapy where my clients and their needs took precedence, I felt the experience gained within this industry could be an asset towards fulfilling my dream of becoming a Funeral Director. Also, after the death of my dear Pop I was so appreciative by the level of care and compassion shown to my family by the funeral staff that I felt this was a profession I would like to be part of.



My husband, Matt, and I have a beautiful little girl called Alvie and we also have two very spoilt cats! We live on a stunning farm not too far from Palmerston North. In my spare time I enjoy reading, walking and spending time with my family and friends.



Burn outs

It seems that in this day and age that a section of the younger generation and sometimes not so younger generation are bent on showing what they think is a mark of respect of the deceased by doing a burn out either on the road outside a funeral home, at the cemetery, and brashly in the funeral home carpark. In my opinion this action is not welcome at any funeral for any reason. And some of the families that have experienced this action are aghast that this section of our community think it's the thing to do. This practice must stop! Not only at our place, but wherever. It's not funny, nor is it a mark of respect for the deceased. As a funeral director, and when this happens no matter how much we plead for it not to, we have to appease the family and deal with the outfall with neighbours and having to live with the scars on the road way. So to those that may read this and say fair enough – save your money that you would spend on tyres and make a donation to a worthy charity instead.

Cortege and opposing traffic

Once upon a time long ago it was common courtesy and a mark of common respect not to pass a funeral cortege or cut in on one. I remember living in Wanganui during the late 70's that opposing traffic would put their lights on and pullover and stop until the first handful of care (the family) has passed before continuing. That practice I believe still happens occasionally. Sometimes when I car is passing a cortege and they come in behind the hearse the driver looks embarrassed and not sure what to do – to you I say stay behind the cortege for that short amount of delay and show some respect without embarrassing yourself. Even stop and allow the cortege to travel legally unimpeded across and main intersection or enter a busy roadway.