

The Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts
Protocol and Important Information Concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic

March 27, 2020

Resolved, by unanimous agreement of the Officers of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts, Inc. (JCAM), as follows:

The Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (JCAM) is committed to the health and safety of the community- at- large and specifically individuals visiting our cemeteries, the families who are making funeral arrangements, our caretakers, funeral directors and the JCAM professional team. JCAM is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and guidance from the CDC, the World Health Organization and protocols promulgated by federal, state and local governments, including the March 23, 2020 emergency order issued by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker. JCAM is also consulting with representatives of the Jewish community. Based upon these efforts, JCAM is operating according to the following protocol, **effective immediately**:

Our Cemeteries:

In an effort to minimize the risk of further spreading the COVID-19 Virus, JCAM cemeteries will be temporarily closed to the public for visitation and unveilings until further notice. This includes all restrooms, chapels and the Sons of Abraham Genizah.

Burials:

We will continue to perform all scheduled burials on JCAM cemeteries. However, in order to keep families, JCAM cemetery workers and the public as safe as possible, no in person graveside services will be permitted at burials. Clergy will have the option to accompany the casket to the grave to observe the burial and recite prayers.

Funeral directors and their staff are expected to adhere to this protocol and communicate it to families. In addition to the hearse and the funeral director, the cemetery gate will be opened to allow only one vehicle of immediate family members to enter the cemetery grounds, and all family members must remain in the vehicle at all times during the burial. Opening of caskets and viewings for any reason are strictly prohibited on JCAM cemeteries and JCAM property. As soon as the burial is completed, the vehicle of immediate family members must exit the cemetery grounds immediately. JCAM personnel and/or caretakers will direct vehicles where to park and will use best efforts to ensure that the vehicle of family members may park as close to the burial as possible on a marked cemetery road. JCAM reserves the right to require anyone on cemetery grounds, including caretakers, funeral directors and their staff, visibly experiencing cold or flu symptoms, including coughing, to leave the cemetery grounds immediately. Any individual who violates this protocol will be asked to leave cemetery grounds immediately.

Grave Sales and Pre-Planning Meetings:

JCAM professional staff is available by telephone appointment to assist families where a death has occurred or is imminent. In person pre-need sales appointments will not be scheduled until further

notice; however, JCAM professional staff is available by telephone appointment to answer questions and handle pre-need purchases and payment.

Public Programs and Educational Tours:

Until further notice, all JCAM programs, special events and educational tours are canceled and will be re-scheduled where possible.

JCAM Business Office:

The JCAM Business Office remains open for all JCAM business. However, the public may only contact us by telephone at (617) 244-6509 as opposed to in-person visits. JCAM will not be scheduling external meetings at our offices until further notice.

JCAM's staff and Officers will continue to monitor the situation and will modify this protocol as appropriate. We appreciate your cooperation as we do our best to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while at the same time serving the Community in these challenging times.

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