



## **Spring Grove Information Guide Funeral and Cemetery Services During COVID-19 Pandemic Effective June 1, 2020**

The past several weeks have been an extraordinarily difficult time for our community and humanity. While more is known each day about the characteristics of COVID-19 and its potential impact, much is still unclear.

We at Spring Grove are sensitive to your concerns. As the largest end of life provider in Cincinnati, our entire Spring Grove family (Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, Oak Hill Cemetery, Spring Grove Funeral Homes and Thompson, Hall and Jordan Funeral Home) remains committed and prepared to safely care for the families it serves. We will continue to guide families in ways they can meaningfully commemorate the life of their loved one.

Spring Grove has had to make some difficult decisions to adhere to the guidance issued by federal, state and local public health officials. It is our hope that this guide will help families understand what is possible within the pandemic constraints.

### **WHAT IS THE SAME:**

- Families can still choose burial or cremation
- Bodies can be safely embalmed. There is no known risk of being in a room with someone who died of confirmed or suspected COVID-19
- Funeral Services, Memorial Services and Graveside Services are all possible, but with limitations (*see updates below*)
- Arrangement conferences can be done remotely (by phone or email) if the family chooses not to participate in person
- In person arrangement conferences to two family members only
- Spring Grove can now video stream funerals to allow friends and out of town family members to participate virtually. This is a free service to any family using Spring Grove Funeral homes.
- After funeral receptions or repasses are not allowed (*we are still evaluating how to make this work with no buffets allowed and social distancing requirements*)
- No splitting of pall bearer duties. Either all 6 from family or all 6 Spring Grove employees
- Offices remain closed on Sundays
- Bicycles, scooters, rollerblades and dogs are not permitted in Spring Grove Cemetery

### **WHAT HAS CHANGED:**

- All gatherings are limited to maximum of 50. This includes graveside services in the cemeteries. Attendees in larger processions will have to observe from a distance, preferably in their cars.
- Funeral service visitation limited to maximum of 50.
- Spring Grove Chapels are available to other funeral homes with a maximum of 50.
  - Chairs in Cedars of Lebanon Chapel are set to Social Distancing standard
  - Cards are placed in the pews of our Norman Chapel to Social Distancing standard
- Interior entombments / inurnments are limited to maximum of 10.

Thank you for your kindness, patience and prayers as we continue to help our families say goodbye to their loved ones. Our Spring Grove entire staff of over 200 dedicated professionals stand ready to serve our community. If we can be of assistance or if you have questions, please contact us at 513-853-1035 or [www.springgrove.org](http://www.springgrove.org).