



COVID-19 Position Statement – Updated June 22, 2020

CEMETERY GROUNDS UPDATE ~ The cemetery gates will be open seven days a week as usual from 8:00am to dusk; please refer to the visiting hours and holiday closures schedule on the homepage of our website at www.bluehillcemetery.com. We continue to welcome visitors to the cemetery grounds with the hope that all who enter our gates will find solace and comfort in our serene natural surroundings.

CEMETERY OFFICE UPDATE ~ The cemetery administration office will be open to walk-in visitors and to those arriving for scheduled appointments. Office hours are as follows:

Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm | Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

To schedule an immediate-need or advance-need arrangements conference, please call the office at 781-843-9000. We require that all visitors to the cemetery administrative office wear protective barrier masks and maintain proper social distancing space of at least six (6) feet from others in the building.

CEMETERY COMMITTAL SERVICES UPDATE ~ As they pertain to cemeteries, the following Phase II re-opening guidelines have been communicated to us by the Massachusetts Cemetery Association:

As cemeteries are outdoor unenclosed spaces, they are exempt from Governor Baker's June 6, 2020 Executive Order on Gatherings. Per the Order, gatherings of more than ten (10) people in an unenclosed outdoor space are not prohibited provided that every person in attendance is able to regularly maintain at least six (6) feet from others in attendance. The type of gathering at issue [cemetery committal service] has not been prohibited or the outdoor space in which the gathering will take place [cemetery] has not been closed to the public by previous Executive Order designating it as a Phase III or Phase IV enterprise or venue.

As a necessary precaution, family members and attendees will not be permitted to serve as pallbearers on the cemetery grounds. Cemetery staff members will transport the decedent and any accompanying flowers to the committal site after which family members and attendees may move to the committal site for services.

CREMATORY UPDATE ~ The crematory has resumed regular hours of operation; please refer to the updated hours of operation and holiday closures schedule on the homepage of our website at www.bluehillcemetery.com. We remain available to funeral homes and the families who have entrusted them with arrangements that include cremation. For publicly or privately-attended cremation services, funeral directors may reserve the Ridge Room in thirty (30) minute increments, maximum of ninety (90) minutes, by contacting the crematory in advance at 781-843-4000. **Until further notice, the maximum number of guests in the Ridge Room for publicly or privately-attended services will be limited to a total of ten (10) with no more than three (3) floral arrangements.**

“The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.” – Leo Tolstoy

On global, national, and local levels, the quote above expresses two of the key strengths that all of us are being called upon to exercise as we make our way through and move past the current COVID-19 pandemic. Not only is this insidious new coronavirus temporarily changing our way of living, it is also impacting the way we come together as a community when someone we have known and loved dies.

On a daily basis, we at Blue Hill Cemetery & Crematory are dedicated to providing a place of beauty, solace, and reverence to those who are entrusted to our care by their families, friends, and colleagues. We are committed to maintaining those standards with customary dignity and respect throughout the challenging days presented to us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*“We should keep the dead before our eyes
and honor them as though still living.” - Confucius*