Risk Assessment

Location/Dept: Cemetery	Date Assessed: March 2020	Assessed by: Allen Richards MA
Task/ Activity: Corona and grave Digging	Review Date: Hopefully never be needed! (03/21)	Reference Number: COVID19 CEM

Activity/ Task	Hazard/Risk	Persons at risk	Controls in place	Severity (1-5)	Likelihood (1-5)	Risk/ Priority	Additional controls required
Grave digging	All normal risks associated with grave digging	Public /staff	Firstly, I want to refer to all current risk assessments for the cemetery CEM1-4 and reiterate that such controls stay in place unless contravened in this assessment.	3	2	Med	
	The extra risk of contamination and infection with COVID19 which comes not from the deceased but those who have touched the coffin (surface contamination leading to infectious aerosol generation when backfilling) or mourners/undertakers attending the funeral/ burial who may be infected and shedding the virus..						
Initial digging	Staff at risk from infecting each other	staff	All staff to work keeping 2m distance from each other wherever possible. Shoring methods to change use of wooden board shoring as per “the old-fashioned way” regulations require shoring every 2 foot dug so the minimum of boards at 2 foot 4 foot and 6 foot using	3	3	Med	If staff have to work in close proximity to each other then use of surgical masks should be considered. Digger should be used with gloves and all controls thoroughly wiped down between users.. Users should wait for air to disperse before swapping over to operate the digger.

			sized 3”x2” as the bracing either end use of disposable paper dressings instead of the grass mat Staff to practice this shoring method and familiarise with it before actual use				Shoring not as strong as current method raising the likelihood of shoring failiure slightly
During Ceremony	Infection risk from attendees	Staff, general public visiting Cemetery	Cemetery to be closed to public during an interment. Contact absolutely minimised funeral arranger to report to cemetery attendant or duty groundsman meet in outside air observe at least 2m distance show the grave plot then stand 30m back well out of the way of those attending funeral The name on the coffin should be visible from the hearse so the groundsmen can check the deceased without approaching the coffin.	2	2	Low	
Back fill	Infection risk from aerosol generation when putting the first amount of soil onto coffin. Infection risk from all items/shoring touched by coffin.	staff	FFP3 masks, coveralls, overboots face visor and double gloves must be worn for this procedure. Coffin and First two feet of backfill must be periodically sprayed with VX disinfectant diluted 1/50. Paper dressing sprayed, removed and buried in grave Shoring’s at 4 foot and 6 to be sprayed and left in place, they are expendable. Shoring at 2 foot is easily retrievable but to be put aside, spray disinfected and left for 72 hours. Webbing to be dropped in with coffin also expendable. Coverall, first layer of gloves and	3	2	Med	

			overboots to be put in grave before last foot of backfilling Visor to be disinfected and left in Chapel overnight. FFP3 mask should be sprayed with 70% alcohol both inside and out and stored in plastic bag with users name on unless it has become contaminated with soil in which case it should be disposed of in double yellow sacks/bin along with second layer of gloves. Wellies to be disinfected in trough of VX dsininfectant All touchpoints and tools to be disinfected using VX where possible (tools) or 70% alcohol wipes				

Clerk's signature: Date:

Risk/Priority Indicator Key

Severity (Consequence)
1. Negligible (delay only)
2. Slight (minor injury / damage / interruption)
3. Moderate (lost time injury, illness, damage, lost business)
4. High (major injury / damage, lost time business interruption, disablement)
5. Very High (fatality / business closure)

Likelihood
1. Improbable / very unlikely
2. Unlikely
3. Even chance / may happen
4. Likely
5. Almost certain / imminent

RISK / PRIORITY INICATOR MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5
		SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCE)				

Summary		Suggested Timeframe
12-25	High	As soon as possible
6-11	Medium	Within next 3-6 months
1-5	Low	Whenever viable to do so