

# Coping With Covid-19

It is almost impossible to give the correct and current advice to Memorial Masons and Burial Authorities during these troubled times as the situation surrounding coronavirus and the advice being given seems to be continually evolving. In a genuine effort to support the Memorial Masonry industry, BRAMM are offering the following guidance for consideration. Note: The word cemeteries includes churchyards.

BRAMM feel that possibly the best approach is one of common sense, taking into account the need to work safely at all times whether in the workshop, the office and, in some cases, the limited amount of work the mason may be allowed to carry out tasks in cemeteries and churchyards.

The information given below is based on the Government's medical and scientific advice and relates to the various tasks the Memorial Mason may be asked to carry out and is designed to be a non-exhaustive guide rather than an official mandatory document.

- **Safe Distancing:**

- a) Public Health England guidelines tell us, where possible, to maintain a two metre distance from others and to wash our hands with soap and water often for at least twenty seconds (or using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water is not available).
- b) This may prove very difficult in certain situations, such as dismantling a memorial for a burial and the usual practice of a two-man team travelling to and from the cemetery to carry out the task.
- c) Therefore, at all times the Mason must adhere to the mandatory requirements of the cemetery in all such situations
- d) If approached by anyone in the cemetery, always keep 2 metres apart from yourself and them.
- e) Whilst it is a little unrealistic to expect the fixing vehicles, tools and equipment to be washed every time they return to the mason's premises, always try and keep the inside of the cab clean and wipe down the seats, door handles, dashboard, etc. with a suitably disinfected damp cloth.

- **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):**

- a) Appropriate PPE must be worn at all times. At a minimum, when working in a cemetery, this should include suitable gloves (disposable or washable), well-fitting goggles (not just safety glasses) and optionally a face mask with a minimum FFP rating of 3.
- b) All working clothing should be thoroughly washed at the end of the working day in preparation for the following day's work.

- **General Guidance:**

- a) Wherever possible, pay any cemetery or churchyard payments electronically and try and avoid contact with paper documentation such as fixing permits, application forms, etc. Ask your cemeteries if they would accept scanned documents via email which will protect both their staff and your own.

- b) If practicable, keep all exterior doors locked to limit the possibility of anyone, other than the company's workforce, from entering the premises.
  - c) Try and limit any customers from visiting the premises. You may consider telephoning each current customer as a courtesy to advise them of the measures you are taking within the organisation to protect both them and your staff and be sure to wipe the telephone after use.
  - d) If a customer visit does become necessary, remember the 2 metre safe distancing rule and the need for all concerned to wash their hands thoroughly on entry and when leaving the premises. Any such visits should be kept strictly to a minimum.
  - e) You may also consider wearing face masks and disposable gloves when a visitor is within your premises. If you do, be sure to have a ready supply of masks and gloves to offer to them for their use as an additional level of protection and, once they've left, be sure to clean anything they may have touched such as the surface of a desk they may have sat at, the pen they may have used to sign a document, the final exit door handle they shut the door with, etc.
  - f) If they have called in to settle an invoice encourage them to pay electronically and cash is a harbinger of germs and bacteria.
  - g) Wherever possible use 'single use paper towels' when drying hands and make sure they are safely disposed of in a dedicated receptacle.
  - h) Only allow food and drink to be eaten and/or consumed in the designated rest room and delegate one member of staff using the room to keep the room clean and properly disinfected after finishing their break.
  - i) Make sure the company has a more than usual optimum stock of cleaning and disinfectant products on-site as you will be sure to use more than you normally would.
  - j) Ensure that any cleaning staff have sufficient 'deep cleaning products' and necessary PPE required for the extra vigilance required in general cleaning ~ paying particular attention to well used items such as computer keyboards and monitors, printers, pens, iPads, etc.
  - k) Ensure all waste bins are emptied and cleaned thoroughly each day at the end of play.
- **Finally ~ Staff Health & Wellbeing:**  
If any member of staff complains of feeling unwell or begins to present any of the symptoms mentioned by the Government's medical and scientific advisors insist they go home immediately, seek medical help and only return to work based on the medical advice given.
  - Keep an eye/ear on the TV and Radio news broadcasts for up-to-date information and advice.