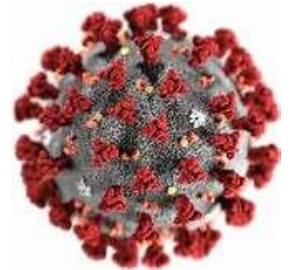


# Covid Update ~ Gradually returning to work

This 'Covid Update' document is designed as a follow on from the Covid-19 guidance document BRAMM published on their web site three weeks ago. It is in no way designed as a replacement document but more the case that it should be read in conjunction with the first document as many of the original guidelines are still critical to working safely in a cemetery or churchyard.

It will be appreciated that the Governmental advice is evolving quite quickly and it is somewhat difficult to keep abreast of its speed and effect on BRAMM Registered Memorial Masons.

However, it would appear the Government's encouragement to 'return to work if it is safe to do so' policy may allow for a little light at the end of the tunnel as the main stumbling block for memorial masons is the 2m social distancing rule.



The Government's returning to work safely advice now states, 'Where possible, you should maintain 2m between people' or 'Keep 2m apart where possible.'

As was stated in BRAMM's recent 'Coping with Covid -19' document, apart from the need for the fixer and his assistant to travel to the cemetery or churchyard concerned to fix a memorial in separate vehicles, BRAMM would suggest there are probably only two occasions where a candidate and his assistant may struggle with the 2m distancing requirements when fixing a lawn memorial. They are: a) When the vehicle is being unloaded on-site and b) When the memorial's plate is being offered to its base.

Given the nature of the safe fixing of lawn memorials it would appear that, provided appropriate face masks and suitable gloves are worn, together with the usual PPE the candidate wears coupled with a continual requirement for vigilance, generous usage of disinfectant spray and sanitiser wipes are used whenever necessary together with an overriding requirement for straight forward, experienced based common sense. The foregoing should meet the Government's current advice ~ the key two words being 'where possible'.

A really helpful and informative set of further guidelines can be found on the Government's web site: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/5-steps-to-working-safely>

One of the main considerations required when installing a memorial in these times is proper pre-planning:

- Contact the cemetery or churchyard office via email a few days before you plan to carry out any work on their premises to seek their permission to be on-site.
- Ask for a confirmation emailed reply so, if you are challenged by anyone on-site, you have written permission to be there and carry out the agreed task ~ especially if working in an un-manned cemetery.
- When loading your fixing vehicle, double check that you have everything you will need ~ including a fully charged mobile phone in case of any emergency.
- Also, make absolutely sure you have all the necessary additional PPE required to protect yourself and your assistant as mentioned above.
- Make sure that both you and your assistant wash your hands regularly and use anti-bacterial wipes as any infection on your hands gives a real risk of you infecting yourself if you touch your eyes, nose or face.
- Use anti-bacterial wipes to keep the inside of the fixing vehicle's cab and the inside of the vehicle used by your assistant paying special attention to the steering wheel and inner/outer door handles, etc.
- Finally, keep a close eye on the TV and Media to ensure you are aware of any changes to the Government's current and ongoing medical and scientific advice.



## Stay Safe & Take Care ~ BRAMM

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