

Te Taihū Tangata Whenua Tangihanga Guidelines During Covid-19 Alert Level 4

Further Information

In conjunction with *Te Taihū Tangata Whenua Tangihanga Guidelines During Covid-19 Alert Level 4*, this information has been designed to answer some of the additional questions whānau may have. For more information visit the [Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand website](#) and the [Ministry of Health website](#).

Can tūpāpaku be buried at the whānau's own urupā?

Funeral Directors in Te Taihū are supportive of this, but it will be dependent on location. Please discuss this further with your Funeral Director.

What happens for burials at public cemeteries?

For public cemeteries in Te Taihū, contractor teams carry out the process of digging and preparing the grave for burial. Contractors are also responsible for carrying the casket from the hearse to the grave for private burial.

However, if there are sufficient people within the whānau, then they are able to carry the casket from the hearse to the grave. If there is not a minimum of four people to do this, contractors will be provided to carry the casket – this will not come at any extra cost.

Can whānau dig graves at their own urupā?

Yes, but if there are people from different isolation bubbles then full PPE protection, along with standard distance protocols must be in place.

Do the guidelines cover the whole Te Taihū Rohe?

Yes.

Are Funeral Directors charges staying the same during the Covid-19 Pandemic?

All charges remain the same. There is no set charge for a funeral or burial – Funeral Directors will advise on costs for each situation. Please be aware that if the tūpāpaku is being held or transported this could increase costs – this should be discussed with your Funeral Director.

Given that many of our whānau are not working, is there any flexibility with the Funeral Directors around payment of funeral costs?

Unfortunately the standard policies prevail. Funeral Director's will provide 21 days following invoice for full payment of services provided. Standard Work and Income Funeral Grants apply if the whānau qualify for this assistance.

If there others in the isolation bubble where the tūpāpaku resided have Covid-19, does that then reduce the potential for burial or viewings?

It does not reduce the potential of burial. However, if people are known to be Covid-19 positive and they are aware of this, they will not be allowed to attend viewings or private burial.

Is there a restriction on how far people can travel to attend funerals or burials?

They must be within driving distance – they cannot fly or travel on the ferry to attend.