

Recommendations for Tangihanga Guidelines - Alert Level 3



**Te Rōpū
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NATIONAL MĀORI PANDEMIC GROUP

Honouring the passing of a loved one through tangihanga is fundamental to the foundation of tikanga Māori.

Although COVID-19 poses a serious threat to Māori, Te Rōpū Whakakaupapa Urutā believes that there are safe ways that tangihanga can be modified to ensure we are still able to carry out our cultural practices, but in a way that protects the health and safety of whānau. Our tikanga also provides for the ability to later celebrate and honour our loved ones through kawē mate.

Our recommendations are based on scientific evidence and the review of international reports on the management of COVID-19 and non-COVID 19 deaths.

If someone in your whānau passes away at home or at the hospital:

A funeral director will come and collect your loved one from your home or the hospital and take them to the funeral home. It is likely that they will be wearing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to protect themselves from the potential spread of infection.

Your loved one will not be able to return home to your whare or your marae.

Our recommended changes for Alert Level 3 Tangihanga guidelines

Attending funeral home/ burials/ cremation:

- Whānau from multiple bubbles can attend a funeral home, burial or cremation.
- We recommend that the number of whānau who can be accommodated should be determined by the funeral director's ability to ensure appropriate physical distancing rather than abiding to an arbitrary number of ten.
- Funeral directors are given the opportunity to negotiate with whānau to safely coordinate immediate/close whānau from multiple bubbles in the funeral home for viewing or cremation/ burial services. We have been advised by funeral directors that they can and are willing to work with whānau to manage this.

Inter-regional transportation:

- Inter-regional travel is allowed to transport a deceased loved one back to their ancestral urupā accompanied by close whānau members (maintaining bubble and/or physical distancing as required).
- Funeral directors can confirm permission to undertake tangihanga activities within our proposed guidelines for Alert Level 3 so that whānau do not incur undue police scrutiny or police opposition to their tangihanga activities.
- Whānau be allowed to travel home to their bubbles following burial/cremation.