



LITTLE RED RIVER CREE NATION

March 3rd, 2021.

Re: Funerals in LRRCN

To Nation Residents and Members,

The EMT has met to discuss how funerals can go forward in LRRCN with less risk due to COVID-19. Our last funeral in Fox Lake was a wake-up call. We were lucky there were not more transmissions of COVID-19.

Mistakes were made. But we still need to be respectful of grieving families and the wishes of the deceased with where they wanted to be laid to rest. We currently have a checkpoint restriction where all non-residents are not allowed into LRRCN, this restriction was created because of the outbreaks in neighboring communities.

Below are the rules for funerals going forward. They may change as Alberta Health Laws change. Families are responsible for making sure these rules are followed with help from our Priest Father Andrew, and staff from the EMT.

1. Immediate family only for the funeral.
 - Siblings, parents, spouses, children, adult grandchildren
 - possibly other exceptions as they apply.

2. This includes non-residents.
 - Approvals through checkpoint will be made by Alix McGregor (HDDEM) until DEM and DDEM are appointed.
 - Alix will work with the head of household on a list of who will be approved to cross checkpoint.

3. Non-residents and residents will be asked to sit on different sides of the church/gym during the wake and funeral.

4. Non-residents must not stay and visit in LRRCN.
 - They cannot stay overnight.
 - They cannot visit before or after the wake or funeral in people's homes.
 - Cannot go to the stores.
 - They will have to drive in and out each day.

**info@lrrcn.ab.ca <https://lrrcn.ab.ca/>
PO Box 30 John D'or Prairie AB T0H 3X0
Phone 780.759.3912 Fax 780.759.3780**



LITTLE RED RIVER CREE NATION

5. Family will be asked to have the burial site prepared the night before the funeral.
6. 20 people maximum in the church or gym at the same time (maybe less depending on the size of the venue)
7. 2 attendants will be hired from our EMT to direct people.
 - they will direct people to sanitize, wear a mask, where to sit/stand in the venue.
 - They will ensure only 20 people in the building at a time.
 - They will direct the rest of the people coming to the funeral to remain in their vehicles and wait their turn.
8. All people coming to the funeral and wake must.
 - Wear masks at all times.
 - Keep 2 meters between households.
 - Sanitize on entry.
 - No singing (pre-recorded music only), no hand shaking, no hugging.
 - Sign into a guest book with date and time of attendance and phone number.

We apologize this memo sounds so formal and directive. But funerals have been COVID-19 super spreader events in other communities. We must do everything we can to balance the risk of COVID-19 with the need for appropriate grieving processes.

This will not be forever. We hope the COVID-19 crisis will eventually be solved through vaccines and other public health measures. And then we can say goodbye to our loved ones the way we used to again.

Thank you,

LRRCN Emergency Management Team

**info@lrrcn.ab.ca <https://lrrcn.ab.ca/>
PO Box 30 John D'or Prairie AB T0H 3X0
Phone 780.759.3912 Fax 780.759.3780**