

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols

effective as of Mar. 24, 2020

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park (BLMP) is concerned about the health and safety of all individuals visiting our cemeteries, the families whom we serve, funeral directors, and our staff. Whether we are declared an essential service or not by government, we view our operations as such. We must therefore take a very aggressive approach to COVID-19 so that we can hopefully continue to operate in these challenging times. In compliance with the CDC, the World Health Organization and protocols determined by our Federal, Provincial, and local governments, BLMP continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation.

Effective March 24, 2020, and subject to change, BLMP will be operating according to the following protocols:

Our Cemeteries:

BLMP's grounds will be closed to the public and will only open for graveside funerals. All other types of visits to the cemetery will not be permitted.

Burial and Monument Unveiling Services:

We will continue to perform all scheduled graveside burials at the Members' cemeteries, subject to specific protocols regarding social distancing, protections for attendees and BLMP staff and limitations regarding gatherings (currently a maximum of 20 people, not including clergy, BLMP staff or the funeral chapel staff). At this time, the BLMP building will not be accessible to the public which includes our public washrooms. Funeral Homes working with BLMP will be updated regarding changes to our COVID-19 protocols.

BLMP Administrative Office:

BLMP's Administrative Office will be closed for the time being. The public may still contact us by using e-mail at admin@bathurstlawn.ca or by telephone at 416-223-1373 as opposed to in-person visits. BLMP will not be scheduling appointments or meetings at our office until further notice.

BLMP reserves the right to modify these protocols at any time. We appreciate your co-operation as we do our best to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while at the same time servicing the Community in these challenging times.

BLMP COVID-19 Protocols for Interments

Effective March 24, 2020, the gates BLMP's cemeteries will be locked and will only be opened by our cemetery staff, and only to permit entry for scheduled graveside funerals.

1. Graveside funerals will be limited to 20 persons (excluding Clergy and Funeral Chapel staff).
2. Individuals attending graveside funerals must remain in their vehicles until they are instructed by BLMP cemetery staff and/or Funeral Chapel Staff.
3. Individuals at the service must stand at least 6 feet away from the grave, with a social distance of at least 6 feet apart.
4. Individuals at the service must sign a register and provide contact information should tracing of infection become necessary.
5. Funeral directors/assistants shall wait until the casket is lowered and BLMP cemetery staff have removed the lowering device and have created a social distance of at least 6 feet from the grave before allowing individuals to approach the grave.
6. Funeral directors/assistants will direct families to create a social distance at graveside of at least 6 feet from one another and will use best efforts to remind families during the service. At all times, visitors and funeral chapel staff must always remain at least 6 feet away from BLMP cemetery staff.
7. Only 2 shovels will be provided in order to enable the attending Clergy and one representative family member (please consult with your Clergy to determine who that should be according to Halacha) to throw dirt onto the casket. Once the top surface of only the casket is covered with a layer of dirt, attendees will be expected to return to their vehicles and leave the cemetery, after which time, the cemetery staff will complete the filling of the grave. There is to be no passing of shovels. We are expecting that the total attendance time within the cemetery grounds for any graveside funeral will be 30 minutes.
8. All pallbearers must wear gloves and anyone who handles the cemetery's shovels must also be wearing gloves.
9. No unveilings, nor grave visitations will be permitted until further notice as these are not considered to be essential attendances in the current circumstances.
10. Our cemetery building will be closed to the public, including our public washrooms.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this latest protocol revision. Please notify all of your stakeholders accordingly. These protocols are subject to change at any time. Please contact Lisa Benhaim, BLMP's General Manager, with any questions.

Thank you very much for your co-operation

Issued: March 22, 2020