

COVID-19 BASIC MEASURES

FOR HEALTHCARE AND DEATHCARE WORKERS IN THE HANDLING OF THE DEAD (FOR ISLAMIC BURIALS)

Safety and well-being of staff is the top priority. Ensure all necessary equipment is provided as well as the required guidance and support throughout the process.

In all situations and in line with standard health and safety procedures, wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is standard practice for the handling of the deceased. A risk assessment should be conducted to determine that the recommended level of PPE is adhered to prior to handling COVID-19 infected bodies.

✓ THE FOLLOWING PPE SHOULD BE USED DURING BODY HANDLING AND THE PREPARATION PROCESS

When worn properly, the recommended PPE provides sufficient protection. The highest risk for body handlers may come from working in overcrowded environments alongside infected people.

 GOWN	 GLOVES	 APRON	 BOOTS	 FACE SHIELD OR GOGGLES	 RESPIRATOR
Clean, long-sleeved fluid-resistant or impermeable gown to protect skin and clothing	Non-sterile, nitrile gloves when handling potentially infectious materials	Waterproof	Standard rubber boots that can be disinfected after use, or shoe covers that can be disposed of	To protect the face, eyes, nose, and mouth from splashes of potentially infectious bodily fluids	Use an FFP2, FFP3 or N95 respirator as appropriate

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ISLAMIC BURIALS



1. GHUSL (WASHING)

- Perform *ghusl* as normal, if permitted.
- If not: Pour or merely spray water on the body, if permitted.
- If not: Perform *tayammum* (dry purification), if permitted by the Islamic and health authorities. If not, for some Muslim scholars, passing a wet hand over the entire body bag will suffice.
- If it will not or if all the above is not permitted: The body must be buried without doing any of the above.
- Avoid direct contact with blood or body fluids from the body.



2. KAFAN (SHROUDING)

- Shroud the body as normal, if permitted.
- Disposables should be treated as medical waste.
- Place the body in the coffin/casket and close the lid as normal.
- Wipe the outside of the coffin/casket and trolley, and allow to dry.



3. SALAT AL-JANAZAH (PRAYER)

- The funeral prayer may take place.
- It should be performed in a cemetery or an open space.
- It may be performed by a minimum of two Muslims.
- If two or more people attend the funeral, they must keep at least 1.5 metres apart to avoid the risk of infection.
- The number of people burying the body in the grave should be kept to a minimum.

- ✓ Ensure that everyone has been briefed on health and safety measures, such as those recommended by the health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ✓ Every effort should be made to ensure the reliable documentation, identification and traceability of the dead and the certification of death. The bodies of people who have died due to COVID-19 must never be disposed of quickly and carelessly.
- ✓ Effective communication and coordination among all agencies involved and other service providers is essential.

 **The families and loved ones of the deceased should be informed of the person's death, including given relevant information, especially on the status of infection of the deceased.**

