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3 December 2021  
Funeral Service Providers

Assalamualaikum Wr Wb

1. As Singapore is moving to a COVID resilient phase, the Ministry of Health (MOH) recently issued guidelines on the management of deceased with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection at home. Thus, funeral service provider (FSP) managing COVID-19 bodies should prepare necessary equipment and observe the guidelines, standard of operation and safe management measures stipulated by MOH.<sup>1</sup>
2. Previously, the Office of the Mufti issued a religious guidance (Irsyad) dated February 2020 for funeral companies to observe while handling Muslim COVID-19 deceased. However, this circular, which is an addendum to the Irsyad, aims to provide necessary guidelines and step-by-step process in performing ritual cleansing (tayammum).<sup>2</sup>
3. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ustaz Dr Feirul Maliq Intajalle at feirul\_maliq\_intajalle@mujs.gov.sg or call 6350 5322.

Regards,

**Ustaz Mohd Murat Md Aris**

**Deputy Mufti, Office of The Mufti (Religious Policy)  
Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the circular by MOH on the management of deceased persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

<sup>2</sup> Refer to annex A for further details.



## Annex A

### IRSYAD ON MANAGING SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 DECEASED AT HOME DECEMBER 2021

#### INTRODUCTION

1. According to the guidelines set by the Ministry of Health (MOH) on managing COVID-19 bodies, the bodies of the deceased should not be sprayed or washed with water. In light of this, the Office of the Mufti issued an Irsyad on the ritual cleansing of Muslim COVID-19 deceased in February 2020, providing an alternative to the normal ritual cleansing (tayammum). In such situations, the ritual cleansing can be performed by using dry earth/soil as it falls under the category of *rukhsah* (“concession”).<sup>3</sup>
2. In summary, there are three specific guidelines for funeral companies to adhere to in managing COVID-19 deaths:
  - a) Performing tayammum and shrouding of Muslim COVID-19 bodies,
  - b) Performing funeral prayers, and
  - c) Burial.

#### STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

##### a) Performing Tayammum and Shrouding of Muslim COVID-19 Bodies

3. Normally, ritual cleansing of the body would take place near the kitchen area i.e., close to the toilet. However, for COVID-19 deceased, all cleansing process i.e., tayammum and shrouding must be executed at the original location where death occurs. This is to avoid the potential spread of the coronavirus.
4. Before performing tayammum, funeral service providers should ensure that (i) sufficient dry earth/soil and (ii) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), surgical mask,

<sup>3</sup> Ibn Hajar Al-Haytamī, *Tuḥfah al-Muḥtāj*, Vol 3, p.183; See also, Al-Nawawī, *Minhāj al-Ṭālibīn*, p. 150; Al-Sharbīnī, *Mughnī al-Muḥtāj*, Vol 2, p. 12.

gloves, a long-sleeved water-resistant gown, and eye protection (face shield or goggles), are ready. The funeral service providers can also use any kind of dry earth/soil to perform tayammum. Alternatively, one can also purchase readily available and sanitised dry earth/soil at local Islamic outlets.<sup>4</sup>

5. According to MOH's recent guidelines, **tayammum can now be performed directly on the body after placing the body in a leak-proof body bag**. Once completed, the dry earth/soil that was used should remain in the body bag. This is to safeguard the well-being of those managing the body, and to minimise the potential spread of the disease.<sup>5</sup>

6. Subsequently, the funeral service providers may proceed to shroud the body bag and to place the body in a hermetically sealed coffin.<sup>6</sup> The lid of the coffin should be closed at all times.

#### **b) Performing Funeral Prayers**

7. To minimise the spread of the coronavirus between individuals, it is encouraged to observe the funeral prayers at home. Attendees must maintain a safe distance of at least one metre between individuals throughout the process until burial. While touching and kissing the deceased by family members is part of the Malay-Muslim norm, this practice should cease given the COVID-19 situation.<sup>7</sup>

8. However, in situations where family members request to observe the funeral prayers at the mosque, they can do so at **Masjid Maarof only**<sup>8</sup>. The funeral personnel should contact the mosque representative, to check on the availability of prayer slots to perform funeral prayers at the designated location. Next-of-kin should also be

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<sup>4</sup> Some shops that sell tayammum soil: <https://tokowarisan.sg/products/debu-syifa-Tayammum/> or <https://shop.barakah.sg/products/debusyifaTayammum1box>

<sup>5</sup> Please refer to Annex B for the step-by-step process for tayammum.

<sup>6</sup> Based on the Fatwa by the Fatwa Committee issued on 19 February 2019, it is permissible to use coffins for burial if there is a need (*hajah*) and does not fall under the ruling of makruh. In view of our current COVID-19 situation with an increasing number of deaths, it is undoubtedly necessary for us to minimise the spread of Covid-19 wherever possible as the preservation of lives (*Hifz Nufus*) is one of the highest objectives of the Syari'ah. The text is as follows:

(ويكره دفنه في التابوت بالإجماع لأنه بدعة إلا في أرض ندية أو رخوة فلا يكره للمصلحة)

Al-Syarbinī, *Mughnī al-Muhtāj*, vol. 2, pg. 53-54

<sup>7</sup> This is in line with the prophetic saying: "Let there be no harm and no reciprocation of harm." (Hadith reported by Ibn Majah).

<sup>8</sup> Please refer to Annex C for more details.

informed of the limited prayer spaces available at the mosque so as to adhere to the prevailing safe management measures.

**c) Burial**

9. All attendees at funeral wakes and burials must wear masks and must observe the prevailing safe management measures and guidelines set by MOH and NEA. As such, family members should take note that only funeral personnel can manage the burial i.e., placing the body into the grave. Family members should therefore observe the process at a safe distance. Funeral service providers should always be informed of the latest guidelines by MOH.

**THE OFFICE OF THE MUFTI**

**ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE**

## Annex B

# STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS FOR TAYAMMUM ON MUSLIM COVID-19 DECEASED

- Ritual cleansing (tayammum) should be conducted by either a:



**Muslim  
Healthcare**

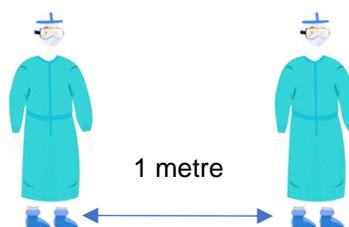


**Funeral Service  
Provider**

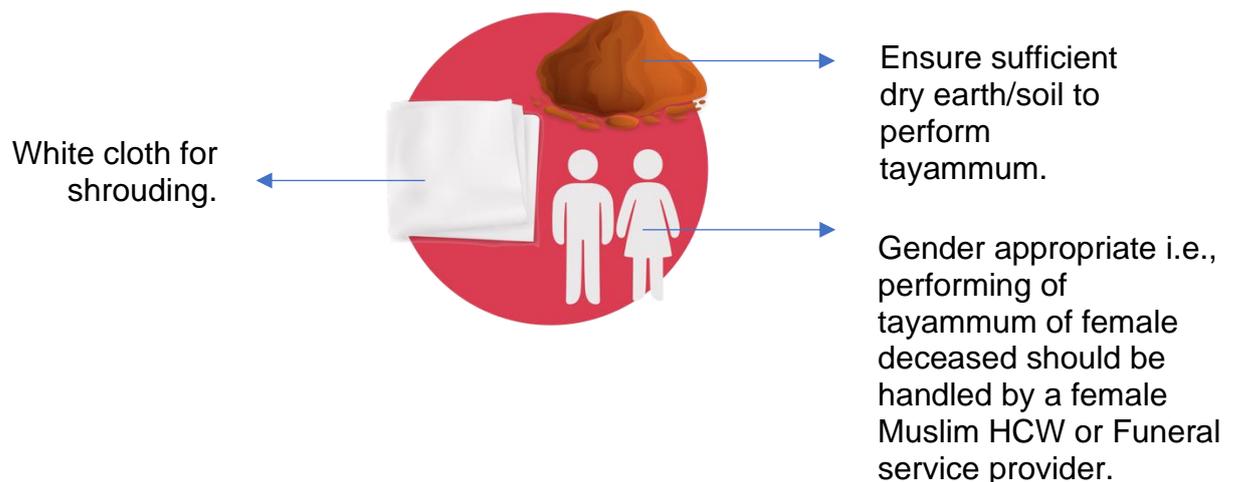


**Next of Kin  
(FSPs to guide the NOK  
and to don full PPE)**

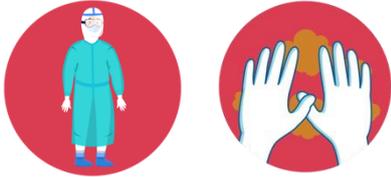
- Things to note for those carrying out the ritual cleansing:
  - To observe **Safe Management Measures** and to wear **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** i.e., surgical mask, gloves, a long-sleeved water-resistant gown, and eye protection (face shield or goggles). The dry earth/soil for performing tayammum should be applied **directly onto the body after placing the deceased in the body bag**, before zipping it up,
  - To **shroud around the body bag**,
  - To place the body in a **hermetically sealed coffin**.



- Preparation:



### Step One



- **Set intention** to perform Tayammum for the deceased.
- **Strike both palms** on the dry earth/soil while wearing PPE (i.e., surgical mask, gloves, a long-sleeved water-resistant gown, and eye protection (face shield or goggles)).
- The striking of both palms must be done simultaneously

### Step Two



- **Wipe both palms on the forehead and face** of the deceased.

### Step Three



- It is recommended to renew striking the palm on the soil before wiping the hands of the deceased.
- **Wipe the palm of your left hand over the whole back of the deceased's right hand until his elbow.**
- **The same applies for the deceased's left hand.**

### Step Four



**Kain kafan (white cloth) to be wrapped around the body bag itself.**

- Ensure that three cloths are used.
- If for whatever reason the body cannot be wrapped in three cloths, the loincloth should be prioritised to wrap the deceased.

### Step Five



- The shrouded body is to be placed in a **hermetically sealed coffin.**
- The lid of the coffin is not to be opened at any time.

## **Annex C**

**Please refer to the below for the location of funeral prayers in Masjid Maarof and the contact details.**

**Address:**

20 Jurong West Street 26, Singapore 648125

**POC:** Mohamed Zulhairy

**Email:** mohamed\_zulhairy\_yaacob@maarof.mosque.sg

**HP No.:** 92701528