

Muslim

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَإِذَا مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ

“And when I am ill, it is HE who cures me”

FUNERAL GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Keeping in mind that it is a responsibility (Fard Kifaayuh) of the living to take care of the dead (Ghusl & Janaza), we should try to fulfill as much of the funeral rites of our deceased brothers and sisters as much as possible so long as we do not endanger the health and wellbeing of the living. **The main concern then, is not (mainly) the deceased but the brothers/sisters that come to observe the funerals (even those who don't have the COVID-19 symptoms).**

After careful consultation with local and national scholars, medical, and funeral and **cemetery** professionals, we have come up with the following guidelines to help the Muslim community take care of their deceased loved ones:

1. In strict adherence to the rules laid out by the governor of the state of Illinois, all gatherings must be restricted to a **maximum of 10 healthy people observing social distancing**. Meaning, anyone over the age of 60 or with pre-existing health conditions **should not** attend any gatherings and should stay indoors. Please take proper precautions while in any gathering.
2. Ghusl (washing) and janaza prayer are both fard kifaayuh (mandatory upon the whole ummah) and thus should be done unless in extreme cases (such as burning, drowning, Ebola, etc.). So, washing a deceased person can be done with regular care if the body has been in the cooler for many hours. But for a person who has died with Covid-19 but has not been in the cooler for too long, washing can still be done, with proper PPE, as long as the mouth and nose are covered during ghusl and extreme care is taken with other bodily fluids.
3. After washing, prayer, and burial, PPE should be removed and discarded appropriately, followed by proper hand hygiene (wash hands with soap for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer).

THESE RULES ARE FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY. PLEASE DO NOT BE OFFENDED IF ASKED TO DISTANCE YOUR SELF OR LEAVE SO OTHERS MAY OBSERVE. JAZAKAMULLAHU KHAIRAN.