



MUSLIM CEMETERY

Subject: Protocol for Janazah Handling and Washing of Deceased under Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Date: March 23, 2020

Assalam Alikum Dear Community Members,

Over the past few weeks we have put together a team of healthcare professionals, local religious leaders, and volunteers with over a decade of Janazah washing experience. The goal of the team was to develop “COVID-19 Best Practice Janazah Washing Standards” in accordance with current laws and Islamic Jurisprudence.

There is no doubt that we are faced with difficult decisions beyond our control related to burial of our loved ones during this critical time. There are three different circumstances, which will be considered by ICGA Janazah committee towards funeral proceedings.

1. COVID-19 positive Case: According to Center for Disease Control (CDC), at this time deceased with COVID-19 may be buried and safely transported. CDC states “There is currently no known risk associated with being in the same room at a funeral or visitation services with the body of someone who died of COVID-19”. However, the CDC also notes, “People should consider not touching the body of someone who has died of COVID-19.” According to our Religious leaders, we are recommended not to do a traditional Ghusul (washing of the body), but Shura will be taken by local shoyoukh (Scholars) to reconfirm the appropriate measures.
2. Negative COVID-19 Case: We will treat the deceased tested negative COVID-19 as “Low Risk” and proceed with our standard Janazah washing procedure.
3. Unknown COVID-19 Case: In this case since we don’t have the results of COVID-19 testing. We will treat the deceased same as Case 1 above to avoid putting our volunteers at risk.

At all times, all volunteers must be wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In cases 1 and 3 Ghusal will be performed at the Cemetery by two individuals not exceeding age 60. Families are not recommended to take part in washing or attending the Janazah. In fact, families of the deceased in cases 1 & 3 should be in quarantine and will not be allowed to attend Janazah. Families will be able to see their loved one’s Janazah via video conferencing and attend the grave on a later date. Janazah prayer will be performed at the cemetery instead of Masjid. It is requested while at the cemetery for the attendees to keep 10 feet away from the grave site and the staff in addition to following all other government issued rules related to no public gatherings therefore Salat Al Janazah will be performed by a number not to exceed 5 individuals.

If there are any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to ICGA Muslim Cemetery Funeral Coordinator at (512) 961-2443

Jazakum Allah Khair