

## JANAZA GUIDELINES

3rd April 2020

### Revised procedures for deaths due to COVID-19 & non-infected related deaths

#### **CONTACT:**

#### **Muslim Funeral Services Peterborough & Cambridge**

**Mohsin Hussain** Funeral Director **07860 125092**

**Raheel Hussain** Managing Funeral Director **07521 889112**

During this time of uncertainty, the health, safety and well-being of our community must stand at the forefront of all decisions. The situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve rapidly and we encourage everyone to follow the guidelines and protocols put forth by the UK government and public health officials. Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, please see below the revised procedures for deaths due to COVID-19 and those not infected, created in agreement with our local funeral directors.

In adherence to strict conditions from the government, Muslim Funeral Services Peterborough has been working tirelessly to care for our community. After receiving specialist training, they are now ready to care for Muslims that pass away from COVID-19 as well as deaths from other causes. Muslim Funeral Services Peterborough is now also equipped with all the necessary personal protection equipment (PPE) kits needed to care for bodies infected by COVID-19 (all PPE kits funded by Children of Adam).

We must all be mindful of the highly infectious nature of COVID-19. This requires many changes in the way funeral services work with hospitals, masjids, coroners, registrars, cemeteries and the families of the deceased. Due to the danger of COVID-19 and the vast number of people likely to be affected, we will need your patience and for you to expect delays beyond any normal situation. These new forms of liaising with all parties are intended to provide a religious and respectful funeral and burial, within a safe framework which we must all follow. These new procedures have been designed under the joint guidance of the government, local Peterborough and Cambridge scholars and by the National Burial Council (NBC).

We especially ask families to remain patient and aware that you must strictly adhere to the new rules of burial and safety explained below:

### **JANAZA & NOTIFYING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- All open congregational Janazas are suspended until further notice, as are any community announcements and notifications over WhatsApp and all other media platforms.
- Janazas of deaths unrelated to COVID-19 will be performed in the rear portico in limited numbers (maximum of 10 persons) and liable to police controls, as announced by the government. All attendees should be wearing water-resistant surgical masks and gloves.
- In cases of a COVID-19 related death, PPE must be worn. The Janaza will be led by the Imam at the cemetery, with funeral service staff and immediate family members only, again limited to a maximum of 10 people.
- If numbers exceed 10 persons, individuals will be asked to leave.
- Upon hearing about a death, whether it is due to COVID-19 or not, please do not attend any Janaza prayers unless you are an immediate family member.
- Even then, family members will be strictly limited in numbers and must all observe a minimum of 2 metres social distance between those in attendance.

### **CONDOLENCES**

- If you wish to give condolences, you should do so via telephone or other remote means.
- No visits should take place between houses. Isolation and social distancing guidance must be followed.

### **GHUSL/TAYAMMUM**

- Ghusl for deaths not related to COVID-19 will be carried out as normal, however again minimising the number of family members that can attend. All attendees should be wearing water-resistant surgical masks and gloves.
- In the event of a death due to COVID-19, Ghusl/Tayammum will only be provided by our specially trained team who will be equipped with specialised protection suites and PPE.
- Strictly no one from the family of the deceased will be permitted to take part in the Ghusl/Tayammum under these new conditions surrounding COVID-19.

### **BURIAL**

- For deaths, unrelated to COVID-19, the burial procedure will continue as normal in limited numbers (maximum of 10 persons).
- For COVID-19 related deaths, Janaza prayers will only be attended by trained funeral service staff, along with the Imam to lead the prayer and family members of up to 10 persons.
- If more than 10 members of the family arrive at the cemetery, they will be told to leave. This is a strict condition from the Peterborough & Cambridge council cemeteries.

- In COVID-19 cases, after the prayer, family members must distance themselves away from the graveside (minimum of 10 metres), whilst the team complete the process of burial.
- There will be no open casket, no touching of the coffin and no one, other than trained staff, will be permitted to lower the coffin into the grave. There will be no backfilling or family members assisting in replacing soil over the coffin, this will all be carried out by trained staff.

### REPATRIATIONS

- No permission will be given by UK authorities for any repatriations for COVID-19 cases whatsoever.
- For cases not related to COVID-19, UK authorities will advise details after 6th April 2020 (there are currently no flights to Pakistan).

The government has given funeral directors very strict rules to observe, so we ask you to please be a great example of our deen. Please be calm and respectful of the safety rules and work in harmony with us to achieve a safe and peaceful burial for all of our loved ones.

Muslim Funeral Services Peterborough's team and volunteers are ready and in place. They will do everything to help families and our community to get through this peacefully and safely Insha'Allah.

This process will be kept under review in keeping with UK government and Public Health England guidance, and we will keep you updated. These decisions have been taken through a careful and thorough consideration of the need to protect lives within the state of emergency that we are currently experiencing.

May Allah strengthen our congregation and our Cambridge neighbours in these difficult times.