

Important Rulings on Handling a Dead Body Infected with the Coronavirus COVID-19

The following are some important rulings on handling a dead body infected with the Coronavirus. For more rulings on handling a dead body, please see [Islamic Laws/iSistani app](#).

- Body handlers must get permission from the deceased's guardian (wali) before they collect and handle the body.
- Immediately after death or as soon as is practically possible, the body must be disinfected to limit further spread of the virus. This is wajib to observe; any harm caused by negligently disregarding this advice brings liability.
- If the authorities require the body to be placed in a coffin for health safety reasons, then even if the deceased had stated in his will (wasiyyat) that he did not want to be buried in a coffin, that part of his will must be ignored and he must be buried in a coffin.
- Sanitizers or disinfectants that contain alcohol are tahir since the alcohol in them is industrial. They are of course haram to consume.
- The WF COVID-19 Task Force highly recommends at least one member of the tayammum / kafan team be a healthcare professional and be present in order to supervise infection control measures and guide teams in general. If payment is required for professional medical services so that tayammum can be performed by opening the body bag, then this payment becomes wajib.
- A man cannot give ghusl / tayammum to a woman who is not his mahram. Similarly, a woman cannot give ghusl / tayammum to man who is not her mahram. A husband and wife can give ghusl / tayammum to one another. Based on obligatory precaution, a man can only give ghusl / tayammum to a mahram woman when he cannot find a woman who can give ghusl / tayammum to her, and vice versa (i.e. a woman can only give ghusl tayammum to a mahram man when she cannot find a man who can give ghusl / tayammum to him).
- Preferably only female volunteers should open the body bag to give tayammum to a female body whose head and arms are covered with the proper hijab covering; otherwise, it is wajib that only a female volunteer perform tayammum to a female body whose hair, ears, neck, or arms are exposed.
- If there is no competent female volunteer available to perform tayammum to a female body that is not in full hijab, then a female volunteer in personal protective equipment (PPE) must cover the body in full hijab so that a competent male volunteer in PPE (with gloves on) can perform tayammum to her. And if that is not

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possible, then the obligation to perform tayammum no longer remains and the body must be buried without tayammum.

- Tayammum can be performed with soil, a clod of earth, pebbles, and stones. The latter two should have particles which stick to the striker's hands.
- In place of three ghusls of mayyit, only one tayammum performed to a dead body is wajib (three tayammums are mustahabb as a precaution).
- Regarding Option 2, i.e. burying the body without ghusl / tayammum and kafan (see page 2 of the [Medical and Religious Guidelines on the Transport & Handling of Dead Bodies \(Mayyit\) infected with COVID-19](#)) tayammum performed to a dead body on top of the body bag is not valid because there should be no barrier on the dead body's skin, and the plastic body bag is not considered a 'jabeera' to allow tayammum over it.
- The method of performing tayammum to a dead body is as follows:
 - a) The volunteer must strike or place his own hands on the soil / something else with which tayammum can be validly performed; and based on obligatory precaution, the striking of both palms must be done simultaneously.



- b) He must then wipe his hands over the dead body's entire forehead – and based on obligatory precaution, over the two sides of the forehead as well – from the place where the hair of the head grows to the eyebrows and above the nose. And the recommended precaution is that the palms be wiped over the eyebrows as well.



- c) Then, he must wipe the palm of his left hand over the whole of the back of the dead body's right hand (including the right thumb).





- d) Finally, he must wipe the palm of his right hand over the whole of the back of the dead body's left hand (including the left thumb).



- A short version of the talqeen for a **male** body is as follows:
 - a) Say 3 times:

يَا _____ ابْنَ _____ اسْمَعِ افْهَمْ

O _____ son of _____, listen and understand.

b) Then say 3 times:

اللَّهُ رَبُّكَ، وَ مُحَمَّدٌ نَبِيُّكَ، وَ الْإِسْلَامُ دِينُكَ، وَ الْقُرْآنُ كِتَابُكَ، وَ عَلِيُّ
إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحَسَنُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحُسَيْنُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ عَلِيُّ إِمَامُكَ، وَ
مُحَمَّدٌ إِمَامُكَ، وَ جَعْفَرُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ مُوسَى إِمَامُكَ، وَ عَلِيُّ إِمَامُكَ،
وَ مُحَمَّدٌ إِمَامُكَ، وَ عَلِيُّ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحَسَنُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحُجَّةُ
الْمُنْتَظَرُ إِمَامُكَ

أَفَهَمْتَ يَا _____

Allah is your Lord, Muhammad is your Prophet, Islam is your religion, the Qur'an is your book, Ali is your Imam, al-Hasan is your Imam, al-Husayn is your Imam, Ali is your Imam, Muhammad is your Imam, Ja'far is your Imam, Musa is your Imam, Ali is your Imam, Muhammad is your Imam, Ali is your Imam, al-Hasan is your Imam, and al-Hujjah al-Muntazar is your Imam.

Do you understand, O _____?

c) Then say once:

ثَبَّتَكَ اللَّهُ بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ، هَذَاكَ اللَّهُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ، عَرَّفَ
اللَّهُ بَيْنَكَ وَ بَيْنَ أَوْلِيَائِكَ فِي مُسْتَقَرٍّ مِّنْ رَّحْمَتِهِ، اللَّهُمَّ جَافِ
الْأَرْضَ عَنْ جَنْبَيْهِ، وَ اصْعَدْ بِرُوحِهِ إِلَيْكَ، وَ لَقِّهِ مِنْكَ بُرْهَانًا،
اللَّهُمَّ عَفِّكَ عَفْوِكَ

May Allah keep you steadfast with the firm beliefs. May He guide you on the right path. May Allah foster acquaintance between you and your guardians in the abode of His mercy. O Allah! Make the ground spacious for him on both of his sides, and elevate his soul to You, and direct Your proof to him. O Allah! Bestow Your pardon! Bestow Your pardon!

- A short version of the talqeen for a **female** body is as follows:

a) Say 3 times:

يَا _____ بِنْتِ _____ اسْمَعِي أَفْهَمِي

O _____ daughter of _____, listen and understand.

b) Then say 3 times:

اللَّهُ رَبُّكَ، وَ مُحَمَّدٌ نَبِيُّكَ، وَ الْإِسْلَامُ دِينُكَ، وَ الْقُرْآنُ كِتَابُكَ، وَ
عَلِيٌّ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحَسَنُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحُسَيْنُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ عَلِيٌّ إِمَامُكَ،
وَ مُحَمَّدٌ إِمَامُكَ، وَ جَعْفَرٌ إِمَامُكَ، وَ مُوسَى إِمَامُكَ، وَ عَلِيٌّ إِمَامُكَ،
وَ مُحَمَّدٌ إِمَامُكَ، وَ عَلِيٌّ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحَسَنُ إِمَامُكَ، وَ الْحُجَّةُ
الْمُنْتَظَرُ إِمَامُكَ

أَفْهَمْتِ يَا _____

Allah is your Lord, Muhammad is your Prophet, Islam is your religion, the Qur'an is your book, Ali is your Imam, al-Hasan is your Imam, al-Husayn is your Imam, Ali is your Imam, Muhammad is your Imam, Ja'far is your Imam, Musa is your Imam, Ali is your Imam, Muhammad is your Imam, Ali is your Imam, al-Hasan is your Imam, and al-Hujjah al-Muntazar is your Imam.

Do you understand, O _____?

c) Then say once:

ثَبَّتَكَ اللَّهُ بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ، هَدَاكَ اللَّهُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ، عَرَّفَكَ
اللَّهُ بَيْنَكَ وَ بَيْنَ أَوْلِيَائِكَ فِي مُسْتَقَرٍّ مِّنْ رَّحْمَتِهِ، اللَّهُمَّ جَافِ
الْأَرْضَ عَنْ جُنُبَيْهَا، وَ اصْعَدْ بِرُوحِهَا إِلَيْكَ، وَ لَقِّهَا مِنْكَ
بُرْهَانًا، اللَّهُمَّ عَفُوكَ عَفُوكَ

May Allah keep you steadfast with the firm beliefs. May He guide you on the right path. May Allah foster acquaintance between you and your guardians in the abode of His mercy. O Allah! Make the ground spacious for her on both of her sides, and elevate her soul to You, and direct Your proof to her. O Allah! Bestow Your pardon! Bestow Your pardon!