

දුරකථන) 0112669192 , 0112675011
தொலைபேசி) 0112698507 , 0112694033
Telephone) 0112675449 , 0112675280

ෆැක්ස්) 0112693866
பெக்ஸ்) 0112693869
Fax) 0112692913

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල) postmaster@health.gov.lk
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி)
e-mail)

වෙබ් අඩවිය) www.health.gov.lk
இணையத்தளம்)
website)



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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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திகதி) 03.03.2021
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DDG (NHSL)
All Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Directors of Teaching Hospitals/ Provincial General Hospitals &
District General Hospitals
Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals

STANDARD OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE (SOP) IN TRANSPORTATION AND BURIAL OF DEATHS INFECTED WITH COVID-19

Preparation and approvals for transportation

The relatives of deceased should inform the Director/ Head of health care institution (where the death has occurred) of their desire to bury the corpse without delay.

The Director of the hospital/ Head of health care institution should obtain a written request from relatives for burial.

Director/ Head of health care institution should make arrangements to include the place of burial as Iranathivu island in death declaration form by coordinating with the nominee of Director General of Health Services (DGHS). This document can be used to transport the corpse from hospital and for a legitimate burial. If an inquest is held, the burial site has to be included by Inquirer in to sudden death (ISD)/Magistrate in the document issued by them.

The Director/ Head of the institution should inform the date and time of dispatch of the corpse to the relatives and advise them to provide the coffin as soon as possible.

It is the duty of the director/ Head of health care institution to transport the corpse in a coffin provided by the relatives to a designated location in Colombo Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (office of JMO Colombo) / BH Welikanda where the corpse will be received by the designated officer. This needs to be coordinated with the nominee of Ministry of Health (see below for contact information).

The vehicle transporting the corpse to “Nachchikuda pier” will leave daily at 5.30 a.m. from the designated receiving center nominated by the DGHS. Corpse carried by authorized personal will be handed over to respective authority at the “Nachchikuda pier” which is supervised by the area MOH/ representative PHI. Burial will take place by the facilitation and coordination of the Police/Security personal at an Island earmarked by the Government of Sri Lanka in the presence of two relatives, MOH/ his representative PHI of the area of burial.

Procedure prior to transportation

The relatives need to provide a coffin in advance.

Before departure of the corpse, designated health staff of the hospital wearing PPE should bring the corpse from the pre designated area to the viewing area for relatives to view the corpse. Religious activities are permitted only at this point according to the guidelines provided by DGHS. Upon completion of the above activities, the corpse is taken by the designated health staff of the hospital (wearing appropriate PPE) and place the corpse inside the coffin provided by the relatives. The corpse inside the coffin is placed in the transportation carriage and hand over to MOH/ representative PHI and police to be carried to the designated place of receiving corpses in Colombo. The driver and supporting personal of the corpse carriage must wear appropriate PPE. The relatives or unauthorized persons are not permitted to obtain photographs, video and video calls in the health care institution/s.

Transportation of the corpse

Two of the relatives who visited the hospital where death has occurred and identified the deceased, allowed to be present at the Nachchikuda pier in the Kilinochchi district on the following day for witnessing the burial at Iranathivu island. This needs to be coordinated with the nominee of Ministry of Health (see below for contact information). However, they should not be patients infected with COVID-19. Quarantine persons are only permitted under strict guidance and approval of the MOH/ Regional Epidemiologist. They should adhere to standard infection control measures. At the final destination, the corpse inside the coffin is received by the area MOH/ representative PHI of the area of burial.

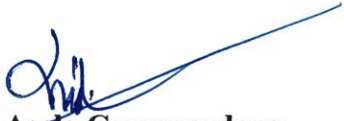
After receiving the corpse, it will be taken to the site of burial by the designated officers with necessary health precautions. Only two relatives are permitted to be present at the burial along with area MOH, representative PHI along with Police and security personal handling the burial process.

The coffin should not be opened and relatives/ next to kin shall not permitted to handle the coffin under any circumstance.

Contact person at the Ministry of Health nominated by the DGHS –

Dr. Anver Hamdani - Director Medical Technological Services and Ministry of Health Coordinator in charge COVID-19 operations

Mobile : 0771214131



Dr. Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

Dr. ASELA GUNAWARDENA
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health
"Suwasiripaya"
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Copies -:

1. Hon. Minister of Health
2. Hon. State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control
3. Hon. State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceutical
4. Secretary, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government- inform relevant Chief Secretaries and District Secretaries
5. Secretary, Ministry of Defence
6. Secretary, Ministry of Health
7. State Secretary, Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control
8. State Secretary, Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceutical
9. Head of National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO)
10. Additional Secretary (Medical Services)
11. Inspector General of Police
12. All DDGs
13. Director, Quarantine
14. CMOH, CMC
15. Chief Epidemiologist
16. President, College of Forensic Pathologists
17. Chief JMO, Colombo
18. Director, Medical Technological Services and Ministry Coordinator/ in charge COVID-19 operations - to coordinate