

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

No.Health.114/2020/40,

Dated Shillong, the 28th October, 2020.

NOTIFICATION

The following protocol/guidelines is issued for the disposal of dead bodies of COVID-19 suspects or confirmed case of COVID-19 in accordance with the guidelines/protocol issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of which is available in the website :

https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/1584423700568_COVID19GuidelinesonDeadbodymanagement.pdf

1. COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets. Therefore, there is less likelihood for an increased risk of COVID infection from a dead body to health workers or family members or volunteers who follow standard precautions while handling body,
2. All present at the cremation/burial ground site will practice standard precautions of hand hygiene, use of surgical masks and gloves.
3. Large gathering at the crematorium/ burial ground should be avoided as a social distancing measure as it is possible that close family contacts may be symptomatic and/or shedding the virus.
4. Viewing of the dead body by unzipping the face end of the body bag (by those performing the burial/cremation using standard precautions) maybe allowed, for the relatives to see the body for one last time.
5. Religious rituals such as reading from religious scripts, sprinkling holy water and any other last rites that does not require touching of the body can be allowed.
6. Bathing, kissing, hugging, etc. of the dead body should not be allowed.
7. The funeral/ burial staff or volunteers and family members should perform hand hygiene after cremation/ burial.
8. The depth of the burial grave should be about 6 ft
9. If cremated, the ashes do not pose any risk and can be collected to perform the last rites.
10. The vehicle, after the transfer of the body to cremation/ burial staff, will need to be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite (available in Pharmacies). This can also be safely done by those who carry the dead body.

Sd/-

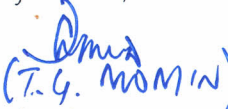
(Sampath Kumar, IAS)

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department

Copy to :-

1. The Secretary to the Governor of Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Governor.
2. The Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Chief Minister.
3. The Private Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Deputy Chief Minister.
4. The Private Secretary to Health Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Minister.
5. Private Secretaries to all Ministers, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind of Minister.
6. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
7. The Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners & Secretaries/ Secretaries of all the Department, Government of Meghalaya.
8. Director of Health Services (MI)/(MCH &FW)/(Research),Meghalaya, Shillong.
9. Director of Information & Public Relation for wide circulation in the Print/Electronic media of the State.
10. The Director General of Police, Meghalaya, Shillong
11. Deputy Commissioners,
East Khasi Hills, Shillong/ West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh / West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai / West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/ South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.
12. Joint Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) I/c IDSP, Meghalaya, Shillong.
13. District Medical & Health Officer,
East Khasi Hills, Shillong/ West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh / West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai / West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/ South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.
14. All Administrative Department/Heads of Department.

By Orders, etc.


(T.G. MOMIN)

Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department
