

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA  
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

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No.Health.114/2020/49

Dated Shillong, the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

**NOTIFICATION**

In partial modification, the **Protocol/Guidelines for the disposal of dead bodies of COVID-19 suspects or confirmed case of COVID-19**, issued vide Notification No. Health.114/2020/46 dated 28-4-2021 (following the guidelines/protocol issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India available in the website

<https://covid19.india.gov.in/document/guidelines-on-dead-body-management/> )

is hereby re-issued:

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. The body after having been sealed as per the protocols/instructions and transferred to the coffin can be taken to the residence of the deceased person. However, the coffin is not to be taken inside the house but to be kept outside and such arrangements are to be made by the relatives of the deceased. A maximum of 20 persons are allowed to visit while the body is kept at the residence of the deceased person. In case there is space constraint then the coffin is to be taken directly to the burial or cremation ground. **Burial or cremation shall be done on the same day or latest by 2.00 P.M. of the following day of the death.** Any undue delays shall be completely avoided.
3. All present at the house of the deceased person/cremation/burial ground site will practice standard precautions of hand hygiene, use of surgical masks and gloves.
4. 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. Only a maximum of 30 members are allowed at any given point of time to visit the deceased in an open environment.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Bathing, kissing, hugging, etc. of the dead body should not be allowed.
8. The funeral/ burial staff or volunteers and family members should perform hand hygiene after cremation/ burial.
9. The depth of the burial grave should be about 6 ft
10. If cremated, the ashes do not pose any risk and can be collected to perform the last rites.
11. 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.

It has come to then notice that even non-covid funerals have tend to become events of COVID spread. Any funeral in the State shall have a minimum gathering and the deceased shall be buried or cremated at the earliest possible time. The gathering also should be limited so as to avoid any serious transmission of the virus.

Sd/-

(Sampath Kumar, IAS)

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

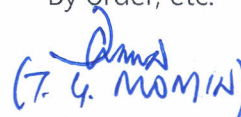
**Memo No.Health.114/2020/ 49-A**

**Dated Shillong, the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.**

**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, Jowai / West Garo Hills, Tura / East Garo Hills, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills, 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/ South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat / Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh / West Jaintia Hills, Jowai / East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat / West Garo Hills, Tura / East Garo Hills, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills, Baghmara/ North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/ South West Garo Hills, Ampati
14. All Administrative Department/Heads of Department.

By order, etc.

  
(T. G. Momin)

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

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