



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No. RD 158 TNR 2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat,
MS Building,
Bengaluru, Dated:21-04-2021

ORDER

Whereas, there has been steep increase in the number of COVID 19 cases in the State in the recent past resulting in high number of COVID 19 cases requiring treatment in hospitalization. There has been steady rise in the number of deaths due to COVID 19 infection in the State.

Whereas, Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services, Department of Health and Family Welfare, vide Circular No: DHS/DD/SSU/17/2020-21, dated 06-08-2020 has issued revised guidelines on death body management in the context of COVID 19 Pandemic (Version-3), which sets out standard operating procure from handing over of the dead body to cremation/burial.

Whereas, there have been requests from family members of the deceased to allowing cremation/burial of body in land/farm house owned by the family members/relatives.

Whereas, it is prudent to swiftly and respectfully dispose the body in a decentralized manner keeping in view of the grieving circumstance and to avoid crowding in the crematoriums/burial grounds.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers, conferred under the Section 24 of Disaster Management Act, 2005, the State Executive Committee hereby permits cremation/burial of dead bodies in the context of COVID 19 at the land/farm house owned by the family members/relatives of the deceased strictly adhering to the guidelines referred in para 2 for strict implementation by Chief Commissioner BBMP, Deputy Commissioners, District Health Officer, and other concerned authorities. The relevant portion of the said guidelines is annexed for reference.


(N Manjunatha Prasad, IAS) 21/4/2021

Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue (DM)
and Member Secretary,
State Executive Committee

To:
The Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, Bengaluru

Relevant excerpt from the revised guidelines on dead body management in the context of COVID-19 (Version-3) issued by the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services.

1. Transportation:

- a. The dead body, secured in a body bag, exterior of which is decontaminated poses no additional risk to the staff transporting the dead body.
- b. The personnel handling the dead body may follow standard precautions (surgical mask, gloves, and apron).
- c. Instructions shall be given to the drivers of hearse van to handle the dead body in a dignified manner without causing distress to the family and relatives.
- d. The vehicle, after the transfer of the dead body to the cremation/burial staff, will be disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.
- e. In case of inter-district or inter-state transportation of COVID-19 confirmed or suspected dead body, the hospital/medical officer should issue the death certificate in prescribed format along with test report as available. All other precautions as mentioned above shall be followed during transportation.
- f. In case the transportation is being done by the relatives, all safety steps should be informed along with the “Do’s and Don’ts” specified above and if possible a health worker may travel with the dead body to the burial ground/crematorium to ensure that these protocols/guidelines are followed.

2. At the crematorium/burial ground

- a. The crematorium/burial ground staff should be sensitized that handling of COVID-19 dead body needs special precautions.
- b. The staff will practice standard precautions of hand hygiene, use of masks and gloves.
- c. Those placing the body in the grave, on the funeral pyre, etc, should wear full PPE kit. Once the burial/cremation is complete, after removal of the gloves, they shall wash hands with soap and water.



- d. Viewing of the dead body by unzipping the face end of the body bag (by the staff using standard precautions) shall be allowed, for the family members/relatives/friends.
- e. Rituals such as reading from religious scripts, sprinkling holy water and any other last rites that does not require touching of the body shall be allowed.
- f. It is a custom in the Indian tradition to bathe, hug, embrace the departed with grief and reverence which should be best avoided in view of the safety of the kith and kin of the departed.
- g. The funeral/burial staff and family members should compulsorily perform hand hygiene after cremation/burial.
- h. The ash does not pose any risk and can be collected to perform the last rites.
- i. Number of persons during funeral/last rites related gathering shall be as per the prevailing guidelines issued by the Government. The people attending the funeral/last shall strictly follow COVID 19 appropriate behaviour.
- j. Children, older people aged more than 60 years and people with respiratory symptoms should compulsorily wear a medical mask and maintain strict physical distancing.
- k. In a confirmed/suspected COVID 19 deaths, either the burial or cremation of the dead body should be done in a dignified manner depending upon the cultural & religious traditions of family of the deceased. At all times, to the extent that the present protocol is not violated, the family may be allowed to carry out any traditions as may be necessary.



(N Manjunatha Prasad, IAS)

21/4/2021

Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue (DM)
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