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Muslim Association of Taranaki Incorporated

## **UPDATE: MAT FUNERAL GUIDELINES** **COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3**

Under Alert level 3 Funeral Directors will continue to carry out the funerals and conduct transportation of the deceased. All Muslim burial rites MUST be performed under close supervision and directives of registered Funeral Directors. However, there is still opportunity for Islamic rites of ghusl and Janaza to be performed.

In the event of a death (God forbid) during the Alert Level 3 period:

1. A family member of the deceased should contact MAT Janaza Focal Points (Br Soheib for males or Sr Saba for females) to notify of death as soon as practicable. In the case of a community member being terminally ill, please inform MAT soonest possible prior to his/her passing for MAT's awareness.
2. MAT will then engage the agreed-upon Funeral Directors to facilitate burial of the deceased in accordance with the lockdown regulations issued by the Ministry of Health. Both Abrahams and Eagars Funeral Homes have been contacted and are able to cater to our needs. They will be providing an estimate of their service fees for our records.
3. Appointed male and/or female Ghusl/Janaza volunteers will assist in the process as per the guidelines. At present Sr Azidah will lead Ghusl for the females and Br Soheib for males with the help of additional volunteers.

### **UPDATE: GUIDELINES UNDER ALERT LEVEL 3, based on WTG and Ministry of Health Guidelines.**

**Please take note of the following procedures, guidelines and clarifications to be followed.**

- The body must not be handled in terms of ghusl if death occurred at home. The funeral home will transport the mayyit to their premises. The funeral director will operate strictly in accordance with the directives from the Ministry of Health.
- If it is a confirmed COVID-19 death, the body will be placed in a sealed body bag and not to be opened for ghusl and kafan, unless the funeral director is directed otherwise. The funeral director will transport the mayyit to the cemetery for Janaza Salaah (Funeral Prayer) and burial. Maximum of 10 people (whanau & others including the imam) will be allowed at the cemetery.

- If it is a non-COVID-19 death, the body will be taken to the appointed funeral home. A limited number of family members will be allowed to perform ghusl and kafan under the supervision of a Muslim funeral service provider and the funeral director's directives. Names and contact details of all present to be provided to the funeral home. Applicable PPE to be supplied by the Funeral home. Kissing of the deceased is strictly prohibited, and gendersensitivity to be strictly observed. If you break the Funeral Home rules, you could be reported to a support authority.
- As per Ministry of Health directives, funeral directors are encouraged to provide an opportunity for family and whānau (up to 10 people in total) who have been in the same isolation bubble as the deceased (or would have been if the deceased died in isolation), to go to the funeral home to view the body in the first instance.

Other family, whanau or friends in separate isolation bubbles but from the same region, can go to the funeral home for viewing. The viewing is allowed only for up to a maximum of 10 people at any one time, depending on the funeral directors' permission.

- Maximum of 10 people will be allowed at the Janaza Salaah, observing the prescribed 2 meters social distance rule. Janaza Salaah could take place at the funeral home or at the cemetery, strictly observing the COVID-19 Alert Level 3 rules.
- The deceased will be transported to the cemetery by the funeral home in their hearse.
- The deceased will be lowered into the grave by the family from the same bubble or by the cemetery staff into the Muslim allocated grave, resting on its right shoulder facing Qibla. A final supplication will be read according to the family's wishes.
- Funeral directors to supervise and be present at the cemetery. They would be responsible for the supervision of the family and final dismissal. Immediately after the burial, everyone is to disperse and go straight home into their own family bubble. No one is allowed to visit the family of the passing to sympathise nor attend any reception, memorial services or functions taking place indoors or outdoors.

Refer to Ministry of Health website for more information. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-deaths-funerals-and-tangihanga>

**Note:** These guidelines are in line with the Ministry of Health directives as of 30 April 2020. Due to ongoing pandemic, any further updates and clarifications will supersede this MAT guideline.

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## Costs

In addition to the cost of Grave Plot purchase and preparation by NPDC, the cost of the Funeral Directors services will also be payable.

**Please see current NPDC fees and charges for grave plot purchase and preparation of grave site.**

### 4. Fees and charges (effective 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)

Plot purchase		Cost
<input type="radio"/>	Adult	\$ 3,623.00
<input type="radio"/>	Child (under 14)	\$ 1,817.00
<input type="radio"/>	Ash plot	\$ 1,165.00
<input type="radio"/>	Returned Serviceperson (in cemeteries where Returned Services sections are provided)	No charge
Interment fees		
<input type="radio"/>	Adult/Returned Serviceperson	\$ 1,948.00
<input type="radio"/>	Child (under 14)	\$ 972.00
<input type="radio"/>	Stillborn	\$ 488.00
<input type="radio"/>	Ash burial	\$ 488.00
Other charges		
<input type="radio"/>	Weekend/public holiday surcharge (only applies to casket burials)	\$ 699.00
		Total \$

In the event of financial hardship in paying for the cost of the burial, the Muslim Association of Taranaki, with the help of the Muslim community, shall endeavor to do their best to assist, by way of collecting donations etc.

As a community, we must turn to Allah during difficult times, we will pray individually for the deceased and their families. Although there are rules and restrictions, we can still offer moral support, duas and condolences by phone or video calls.

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