

# GHUSL, JANAZAH & BURIAL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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## *Guidance Document*

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate*

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During regular times, a Muslim's deceased body is washed and shrouded according to the methods prescribed in the sunnah.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, there are concerns that washers who come near the deceased's body will become infected and they will need to self-isolate at home after they bathe the body. There is also the concern of the virus spreading or the health authorities not allowing the washing, in which case the obligation is lifted because of these hardships and we can proceed directly to the janazah prayer and burial without ghusl and kafan. This is also acceptable in Islam.

Shrouding is another obligation towards the deceased. If this is not possible according to the method prescribed in the Sunnah, then the deceased may be left in the hospital gowns they are already wearing. If the body was received in a bag that is not to be opened, then the bag will suffice in covering the deceased body. We may then proceed directly to the janazah prayer and the burial.

As for the janazah prayer, it can be performed at the cemetery, with the least number of individuals, and others can do the Salatul Gha-ib (Absentee Prayer) from anywhere, since they are unable to attend for health and safety reasons.

May Allah (SWT) protect everyone and help us through this pandemic.



**Canadian Council of Imams**  
info@canadiancouncilofimams.com  
www.canadiancouncilofimams.com  
@CCImams



**Muslim Medical Association of  
Canada** info@muslimmeds.ca  
www.muslimmeds.ca @muslimmeds