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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

මගේ අංකය) DQ/06/2020
எனது இல)
My No.)
ඔබේ අංකය)
உமது இல)
Your No :)
දිනය)
திகதி) 2021.10. 12-
Date)

All Deputy Director Generals
Director, Quarantine
Chief Epidemiologist
Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Regional Epidemiologists
Medical Officers of Health
Medical Officer, Airport Health Offices

**Measures to be followed regarding human remains repatriated
from overseas during the pandemic of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

Following measures shall be adhered regarding the human remains of Sri Lankans transported from overseas to Sri Lanka during the pandemic of COVID-19.

1. Only human remains of Sri Lankans will be repatriated from overseas into the country via Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA).
2. Human remains of diagnosed COVID-19 **should not be** repatriated to Sri Lanka (Human ash of diagnosed COVID-19 can be repatriated to Sri Lanka)
3. Requests for approvals for repatriation of human remains should be submitted by the relevant airline / Sri Lankan Airlines Cargo to the Airport Health Office with the following documents; Death certificate, Embalming certificate, Transit certificate, Proof of identification of deceased (cancelled passport), Coroners certificate / Police / Forensic report (if death was not due to natural reasons), Infectious disease free certificate (if available), Corona free certificate and Letter from the Sri Lankan Embassy indicating no objection for repatriation. Repatriation

should be done only after the final approval is given by the Medical Officer of the Airport Health Office at BIA.

4. The coffin should be disinfected with sodium hypochlorite (TCL) powder and bottom of the coffin should contain a layer of sodium hypochlorite (TCL) powder.
5. All orifices of the human remains should be closed with gauze plugs impregnated with sodium hypochlorite (TCL).
6. The human remains shall be sealed in a non-permeable transparent body bag.
7. The coffin shall be sealed. It is requested to cover the head part with non-breakable transparent top for identification purposes.
8. Airport Health Officer of Quarantine Unit shall request an inquest for all human remains repatriated from overseas.
9. All human remains should be sent to the mortuary of the District General Hospital (DGH) Negombo.
10. Relatives should arrange a consignee/undertaker to dispatch the human remains directly to DGH Negombo from the airport.
11. Consignee/undertaker should wear recommended Personal Protective Equipment during transportation/handling human remains.
12. If need to view the human remains, only ten relatives at a time are allowed to view the human remains at the DGH Negombo. If there is no transparent top over the head part of the body, consignee/ undertaker shall open the coffin and show the human remains to the relatives by adhering to recommended protective measures. **If opened, should seal the coffin and should not transfer the human remains to another coffin.**
13. All human remains where post mortem examination is not ordered by Inquirer into Sudden Death/ Magistrate shall be handed over to relatives in a sealed coffin to be cremated/buried based on written request made to the inquirer into Sudden Deaths by next-of-kin/ closest relative.
14. **Sealéd coffin should not be opened once released from DGH Negombo and handed over to relatives.**
15. Human remains released to next-of-kin/ closest relative. shall be cremated / buried at a public cemetery **within 24 hours of releasing from the DGH Negombo.**
16. If a post mortem examination is performed, it should be conducted by the Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) of DGH- Negombo (If required, JMO of DGH Negombo shall obtain services of JMO of National Institute of Infectious Diseases). The decision on the method of disposal

for human remains where post mortem was conducted will be decided by the Magistrate/ Inquirer into Sudden Death with the consultation of JMO. Based on the decision, cremation or burial should be done adhering to the above stipulated measures on cremation/burial.

17. Airport Health Officer shall inform the area Regional Epidemiologist/Medical Officer of Health where the cremation/ burial is carried out.
18. In case of cremation, the relatives are permitted to obtain ashes at their requests.

My letter No. DQ/06/2020 dated 2021.03.05 on the above title is hereby cancelled.


Dr Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

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Copies:

- Secretary, Ministry of Health
- Secretary, Foreign Ministry -To inform Sri Lankan overseas missions
- Secretary, Ministry of Justice - F.N.A.
- Attorney General
- Inspector General of Police - F.N.A.
- City Coroner, Negombo- F.N.A.
- Director/ DGH Negombo/ NIID- F.N.A.