

## **Management of COVID-19 Deceased Persons Across All Settings (Institutional/Community)**

### Can funeral wakes be held for those who passed away from COVID-19 infection? How long can these wakes be held for?

Yes. MOH has assessed that funeral wakes can be held for those who passed away from COVID-19 infection.

### Is it safe to conduct funeral wakes / rites for those who have passed away from COVID-19 infection?

Healthcare workers and funeral services providers would prepare the bodies of the COVID-19 deceased persons for cremation or burial. Body bag is not required but used if necessary to prevent leakage of body exudate or substances.

Washing/spraying of COVID-19 deceased person is allowed. MOH strongly advise participating family to don at least gloves and face mask.

Collection, casketing and transport of the bodies for cremation or burial are limited to funeral services providers, whose staff have undergone the Basic Infection Control Course (BICC) conducted by the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID). Staff of the funeral services providers also have to be suitably protected when carrying out their work. These funeral services providers have also received a circular on further updates to management of deceased persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 from the Ministry of Health (MOH).

### Do all the bodies of deceased infected with COVID-19 have to be cremated?

A COVID-19 deceased person is permitted for cremation or burial service.

### Which funeral services providers (FSPs) are qualified to handle bodies of deceased infected with COVID-19?

You may refer to a list of BICC-trained FSPs at [https://www.ncid.sg/For-General-Public/Pages/List-of-Funeral-Service-Companies-Trained-in-Basic-Infection-Control-Course-\(BICC\).aspx](https://www.ncid.sg/For-General-Public/Pages/List-of-Funeral-Service-Companies-Trained-in-Basic-Infection-Control-Course-(BICC).aspx). Healthcare workers and/or medical practitioners should inform household members of the deceased on how to access and use this list early, to facilitate handling of the deceased at the time of demise.

### Is embalming allowed for deceased with COVID-19 infection?

Embalming is allowed for all COVID-19 deceased regardless of time from infection, i.e. no stipulation on number of days from first positive test.

If embalmed, open casket wakes are allowed.

As of 5 March 2023, any licensed funeral parlours with embalming facilities may provide embalming services to COVID-19 deceased persons. You may refer to the list of licensed funeral parlours with embalming facilities at <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/after-death/post-death-matters/arranging-a-funeral>

[What repatriation arrangements should the next-of-kin of a foreign deceased infected with COVID-19 make? How does NEA handle a foreign deceased case?](#)

Next-of-kin are strongly advised to cremate the bodies of the COVID-19 deceased persons before transporting the ashes back to their home countries. No special permit is required for the repatriation of cremated ashes.

To repatriate the body of a foreign deceased back to their home country, the next-of-kin may either seek the assistance of a funeral director or their Embassy to make the necessary arrangements. Approval from both their home country and NEA's Port Health Office is required for import to their home country and export from Singapore, respectively.

Together with the relevant authorities, NEA will provide assistance on repatriation arrangements to the next-of-kin.