



25th March, 2020

Important Announcement: Covid-19 - Muslim Burials in Huddersfield Update

Assalaamu'Aalaikum Warahmatulaahi Wabarakatuh,

HMBC has introduced new measures to ensure every Muslim death in Huddersfield is given a dignified and traditional Muslim burial. These measures are in line with current UK Government and Public Health England standards and have been introduced to stop the possibility of the infection transferring to members of the public. HMBC and the Council are working hard together to enable burials to take place without undue delay.

We have been working very closely with the National Muslim Burial Council who is the main lead on a national platform in terms of liaising with the necessary Government Departments, Public Health England and other agencies. At a local level we are in communication with our Local Authority (Kirklees Council Bereavement Services), our local Coroner's Office, Local Public Health England office, Hospitals, Senior Ulema's, other local funeral service providers and Masaajid.

It is our humble request that everyone shows patience and understand that we all now have to make some adjustments and sacrifices in terms of how funerals and burials are performed during this period. The biggest sacrifices will have to be made by the dear and loved ones of the deceased. It is extremely important that we follow the advice and guidelines and not refuse to adhere even though these may seem harsh and painful. The controls and restrictions which are being introduced are for the safety and wellbeing of everyone, especially those that are assisting in ensuring the funerals and burials take place. These include the family members, hospital staff, Council officers, GP's, Registrars, Funeral services and Masaajid volunteers and others.

Please make du'a to the Almighty that he safeguards everyone through these trials and tribulations and provide us with good health, strength and conviction of our faith to ensure we come through this with increased imaan and closeness to him, ameen.

HMBC Committee

**Guidance for All:**

Deaths have been put into 2 categories- Non Covid-19 deaths and Covid-19 deaths, restrictions and precautions will have to be implemented for all deaths.

Restriction will apply in terms of whom and how many people can get involved in the process and attending the religious rites.

For all deaths:

- Only limited persons should be involved in the whole process
- Maintain social & people distancing
- Use sanitizers if available, if not wash your hands if facilities are available
- Wear gloves and limit touching surfaces
- Only a young and healthy persons should attend and be involved
- Over 60's should not get involved
- Anyone with any underlying conditions should not attend or be involved
- Anyone who is self-isolating must remain in isolation and not attend
- Consoling the Bereaved (Ta'ziyah) should be via telephone only
- Funeral prayer (Janazah) and Burial (Dafn) will take place at the cemetery with limited numbers of attendees

Covid-19 Deaths:

- All family members and anyone with recent contact should immediately self-isolate
- Anyone already in self-isolating must remain in isolation
- Family members will need to appoint someone in the extended family or other who hasn't had any recent contact with the family (in particularly the deceased) to take responsibility of the communication
- Immediate family members and others who have had recent contact with the deceased will not be able to partake in the funeral and burial
- Numbers of how many people will be allowed to attend must be very limited to just those that need to
- Restricted numbers have been applied by the hospitals, and local authorities in line with government advice
- PPE equipment should be worn by anyone dealing with the deceased
- Only HMBC staff who have knowledge and training should attend the Hospital Mortuary to pick up the body
- Restricted numbers should be involved in the Bathing (Ghusl) and Shrouding (Kafn)
- Bathing (Ghusl), Shrouding (Kafn), Funeral prayer (Janazah) and Burial (Dafn) will take place in accordance to the conditions and instructions placed by the authorities when releasing the body and in light of the guidance provided by senior scholars
- Funeral prayer (Janazah) and Burial (Dafn) will take place at the cemetery with limited numbers of attendees with social distancing of 2m
- Properly cleanse and wash yourself after the procedure is complete
- Ensure all cloths, towels etc are clean and have been recently washed thoroughly at a high temperature and any disposable items used are thrown away properly as guided