

## Muslim Burial Guidelines During Level 4 Lockdown

**These guidelines are developed based on the rules established by the NZ Government and must be strictly adhered to:**

1. All Muslim burial rites **MUST** be performed at and by registered Funeral Parlours only.
2. Community based funeral service will not be allowed during Level 4 Lockdown.
3. There is opportunity for Islamic rites of ghusl and Janazah to be performed under the supervision of the Funeral Parlour.

### COVID-19 related and unrelated funerals

1. No unauthorised person (including family within “the bubble”) will be able to touch the body of COVID-19 deceased person. Hospitals may allow the family bubble to see the body from a safe distance or through video call, if such facility is available. Members of a bubble may be allowed closer access to non COVID-19 deaths.
2. **The Body of the deceased person can be left in the mortuary and funerals can be performed once COVID-19 alert level is lowered to Level 2.**
3. Where funerals are to be performed within level 4 lockdown period, the body of the deceased person will be collected by a funeral director and prepared for burial by them. Family and friends will not be able to have any direct contact with the deceased person’s body.
4. Davis Funeral Services is a designated service provider to support the Muslim Community with all COVID-19 related funerals in Auckland. Similar arrangements are being made in other parts of the country.
5. **No ghusul will be allowed for COVID-19 related deaths.** The body of the deceased person will be sealed in a special body bag and prepared for burial by the Funeral Director, therefore, Islamically, the obligation of both ghusl and tayammum is lifted, and it would not be considered sinful if the body is laid to rest as is.
6. Funeral directors would allow the religious rituals for the care of the body to occur **for non-COVID-19 related deaths**. However, these must be carried out in the presence of an embalmer who will give direction to anyone present on the correct PPE requirements.
7. Activities such as kissing, washing or touching the body will not be allowed before, during or after the viewing.
8. Islamic requirements for ghusul (ritual wash) for non COVID-19 related deaths, and janazah (prayer over the body), to be carried out by Muslims must be within the Funeral Homes strict rules for handling of the body. Funeral Directors may work with their Muslim communities to identify Muslim males and females who can prepare the body of the deceased for correct funeral and burial under the supervision of the embalming staff.
9. Immediate family members that are in the bubble of the deceased person can go to the cemetery for Janazah and burial.
10. Body of the deceased person cannot be transported outside of the region where death occurred.
11. Safe distances must always be maintained.