Islamic Burial guidelines for COVID-19 for the deceased body

These guidelines are based on information (Fatawa) available on internet
and discussion of Islamic scholars on the issue.

Certain funerary rights of the deceased are mandatory in Shariaah. These include:

Bath (*Ghusal*)

Shroud (*Kafan*)

Funeral Prayer

Burial

Muslim families of deceased may be informed and consoled, that their loved one
has embraced death of a martyred (*Shaheed*), and any shortcomings in normal
funerary rights will not affect this.

Transmission of COVID-19 from the deceased is possible and one must observe
adequate precautions (gloves, mask, gown, goggles, face shield, head-cover etc)
and perform the required tasks. Un-necessary fear should not obviate the
process. The dignity of the deceased must be ensured.

In Shariaah, the rights of "living" takes preference over "deceased" and all risk
must be minimized by using required Personal Protective Equipments (PPE).

1. **Bath (Ghusal):** The following may be adopted in preferential order
   The priorities of Ghusal are in the following order

(1) Full bath (Ghusal)

(2) Minimal Bath (*Ghusal*) with swiping the body with wet cotton/cloth

(3) Tayammum

(4) Just wiping over the body bag.

If above not possible burial without Bath (*Ghusal)* is permissible.

2. The body bag may be considered to fulfill the role of shroud (*Kafan*)

3. Cremation of the deceased is neither required scientifically nor permissible as per Islamic rules.

4. Funeral prayers should be performed by minimum number of participants. It is *Fardh-Kifayah*. Other option is Funeral prayer in absentia (*Salat al-Ghaib*)

5. Shared graves can also be an option in case of necessity.

6. If the government has arranged for safe funeral of the deceased that should be accepted and the orders obeyed.

7. Those who have handled the deceased body should dispose the used PPE carefully, take shower, change their cloths may be dipped in bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite) or use any other disinfectant as per standard protocol.