**Standard Operating Procedure for Cremation of Dead Body, COVID-19**

**Funeral Ritual**

Drodhen Lam (17388164)

**Firewood Delivery**

**Chief Forestry** Officer (karma Tempa, 17603552)

**Crematorium Setting**

(Karma Tshewang,MDA, 17670920)

**Dead Body Handling**

(Deki Phuntsho, DHO, 17673579)

1. **Overall Coordinator**

The Dzongkhag Cultural Officer shall coordinate with the team members in ensuring the Safe and Dignified Cremation of dead body of suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

* 1. Identify the cremation site (in case there is not crematorium);
  2. Ensure logistic arrangement at crematorium;
  3. Mobilize human resource/helpers required for arrangement of funeral rituals;
  4. Mobilize transportation facilities for Lam, monks, firewood, helpers and materials/equipment;
  5. Liaise with Food Supplies Unit for arrangement and delivery of food during the cremation of dead bodies; and
  6. Ensure that ashes are collected and disposed as per the local custom.
  7. Identify and ensure that the cremation site is in place. If this is not the case,send selected people to do so at the crematory identified by the family. Liaise with Gewog Administration in identifying alternative crematorium sites.

1. **Funeral Ritual**

Dodhen Lam shall arrange funeral ritual for the deceased

Arrange a required number of monks;

* 1. Mobilize all religious objects and equipment required for the funeral ritual; and
  2. Lead the funeral rituals for the deceased.

1. **Firewood Delivery**

Chief Forest Officer shall arrange and deliver a required quantity of firewood for cremation of deceased.

* 1. Identify firewood collection site and inform the overall coordinator for transportation arrangement;
  2. Mobilize helpers for collection, loading and unloading of firewood; and
  3. Deliver firewood to designated crematorium.

1. **Crematorium Setting**

Mr. Karma Tshewang, Dzongkhag Store shall ensure setting of the crematorium. He shall be supported by Mr. Jigdrel Chimi Jamtsho, 17728993 (Dispatcher) & Mr. Wangdi Phunthso, 17674916 (Khangyer).

* 1. Receive delivery of firewood from the firewood team. Prepare pyre as per the requirement of the SOP for Safe and Dignified Management of Dead Body;
  2. Cleaning and internal arrangement crematorium; and
  3. Arrange a point of delivery for meals and refreshment.

1. **Dead Body Handling**

Dzongkhag Health Officer shall ensure that Dead Body of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 is managed in safe and dignified manner as per the SOP for Safe and Dignified Management of Dead Body of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19.

* 1. Console and offer condolences to the family members of the deceased;
  2. Meet with family members and explain the nature of disease, risk of infection and associated problems;
  3. Ensure that the family members understood that the disease poses high risk to public health and only the medical team is allowed to handle the dead body;
  4. Ensure that the family members and relatives have understood these procedures;
  5. Inform the Dzongkhag Kidu Officer if the deceased has no families/relatives or from poor family;
  6. Work together with the family members to ensure that the cremation is carried out in a safe and dignified way;
  7. Obtain the formal consent of the family’s representative before proceeding with the cremation;
  8. Allow the family members to take pictures of the preparation and cremation;
  9. Respect and give the grieving/praying time to family members;
  10. Allow the family members to witness and offer prayers;
  11. Provide adequate time to perform funeral ritual;
  12. Allow family members to light the funeral pyre/incinerator, if they wish to do so. They should wear face mask;
  13. While the dead body is being consumed by fire, ensure minimum handling of the dead body (such as stabbing and puncturing of the body with sharp objects to facilitate quick burning) is ensured; and
  14. Collect and dispose ash as per the local custom.