

**Government of West Bengal
Health & family Welfare Department
Swathya Bhawan, Block GN-29, Sector V
Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 91**

Memo No: HPH/9M-21/2020/78

Dated: 02.04.2020

Advisory on COVID-19 Infectivity During Cremation

A question has been raised whether the cremation/ burning of the body of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 will release the Coronavirus into the air and cause infection.

Based on WHO Interim guidance on Infection Prevention and Control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19 (published on 24 March 2020), *"To date there is no evidence of persons having become infected from exposure to the bodies of persons who died from COVID-19"*

Taking all Infection Control measures and following 'the Covid-19 dead body management guidelines released by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in India, there is no chance of transmission of the disease in crematorium or burial area. The main driver of transmission of COVID-19 is through droplets. There is no risk of COVID infection from a dead body to health workers, family members or in the locality who follow standard precautions while handling body.

Temperature generated during burning of dead bodies is 800 - 1000 degree Celsius, under which, in no condition virus can remain viable. Till date, there is no evidence that, the smoke generated can cause COVID-19.

Hence, it is clarified that if the protocol prescribed for transportation and disposal of dead bodies of COVID-19 positive persons is followed, there is no risk of any Coronavirus infection spreading from the dead body as result of cremation.

Sanjay 02/04/2020

**Director of Medical Education
Government of West Bengal**

Sanjay 02/04/2020

**Director of Health Services
Government of West Bengal**