



PUBLIC ADVISORY

NO. 11- 2020

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S POLICY ON THE SHIPMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS IN LIGHT OF COVID -19

10 April 2020- The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines would like to inform the general public of the following Philippine Department of Health (DOH) policy on the Shipment of Human Remains in light of the COVID-19 related fatalities:

1. Ordinary rules on shipment of human remains, both cremated remains and the actual corpse, shall continue to be applicable for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths.
2. **For COVID-19 related deaths, the DOH recommends that remains be cremated.** In the event that the host country does not allow cremation or the next-of-kin otherwise insists, the actual corpse may be shipped back into the Philippines following usual rules on shipment of human remains, provided it is hermetically sealed (air-tight and waterproof) with the further requirement that said corpse be either buried or cremated within 24 hours upon arrival in the Philippines, without viewing privileges.

For more information on the requirements for the issuance of a **CONSULAR MORTUARY CERTIFICATE**, a document required to facilitate the shipment of remains into the Philippines, please call the Philippine Embassy hotline at +41 79 5421 922, or send an e-mail to berne.pe@dfa.gov.ph.

Thank you very much.

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