Due to the highly contagious nature of coronavirus, there are certain governments that have mandated either immediate burial or cremation (this is not the case currently in the United States). Under those circumstances, every effort should be made to avoid cremation. Therefore if a Jew would pass away on Shabbos, the burial should be done immediately (on Shabbos) by non-Jews.

In addition, the storage facilities of many funeral homes in New York (and elsewhere) are currently filled to capacity and have raised concerns regarding the upcoming Yom Tov. Under these tragic circumstances, we must allow that the burial be performed on Yom Tov. Relatives who wish to participate would not be permitted to walk beyond the techum, nor would they be allowed to accompany the hearse in a car.

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On Yom Tov Sheini, it is theoretically possible for Jews to be involved in the actual burial, and in that case they would be permitted to join in the car and travel beyond the techum. This would only be relevant for those who would be physically involved in the burial (digging the grave, lowering the castket into the ground and filling in the grave with dirt). No one else including close family members would be allowed to travel to the cemetery.

Ordinarily, one who travels to a cemetery on Yom Tov Sheini for a burial, would be required to stay in a local Jewish home for the remainder of Yom Tov, but due to the current necessity of social distancing, this is impossible. Therefore, they may return to their homes on Yom Tov Sheini.

However, due to the current danger, it is strongly recommended that all burials be done by professionals with the use of machines. Accordingly, the family members would unfortunately not be present at the burial on Yom Tov.