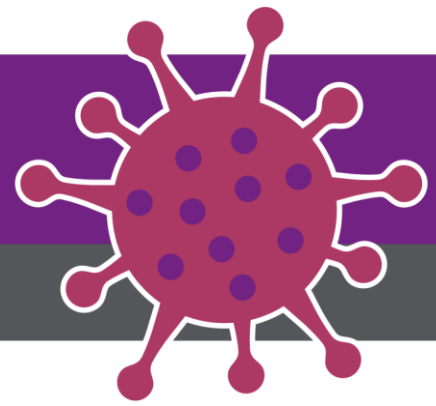


CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Care of the Deceased Patient



Audience: Care of the Deceased Patient

Revision Date: 3/21/2020

Version: Version #1

This interim guidance is based on what is currently known [about COVID-19](#) and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) current guidance:

Most often, spread of virus from a living person happens with close contact (i.e., within about 6 feet) via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to the way that influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. This route of transmission is not a concern when handling human remains or performing postmortem procedures. Postmortem activities should be conducted with a focus on avoiding splashes and aerosol generating activities. Ensure that appropriate work practices are used to prevent direct contact with infectious material, percutaneous injury, and hazards related to moving heavy remains.

Preparing for Transportation of Human Remains

- Precautions: Standard Precautions and Contact Precautions
- Follow routine post-mortem procedures when bagging and transporting the body.
- Disinfect the outside of the bag with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Wear disposable nitrile gloves when handling the body bag.

For the collection of post-mortem specimens (nasal swab) or autopsy procedures, refer to the Centers for Disease Control "Interim Guidance for Collection and Submission of Postmortem Specimens from Deceased Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19, February 2020" before proceeding.