

COVID -19
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR MANAGEMENT INFECTED DEAD BODIES

As per guidelines issued by Govt. of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare & other scientific Bodies the SOP's for management of dead bodies would be-

THE TEAM SHOULD CONSIST OF

(a) Health personnel (at least four) who will be involved in handling and packaging of dead body and transfer the dead body to the van or ambulance for the cremation place or burial ground.

(b) Driver who transport dead body from hospital to cremation ground.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING DEAD BODIES

- Member of dead body handling team should be fully protected by PPE (work clothes, medical disposable protecting clothing, disposable gloves and thick rubber gloves with long sleeves, medical protective mask, protective face shield & shoes covered with water proof shoes cover & water proof apron).

- All tubes, drains, catheter on the body should be removed & take care while handling sharp articles like IV cannula etc. which should be disposed as per norms.

- If the family of the patient wishes to view the body at the time of removal from the isolation room or area, they may be allowed to do so with the application of standard procedure.

- All the openings of corpse such as mouth, nose, ears etc. & wound openings if any like tracheostomy opening should be packed with disinfectant by using cotton or gauze dipped in 3000- 5000 mg per litre chlorine-containing disinfectant or 0.5% per-oxy acetic acid or 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.

- Wrap the dead body with double layer cloth sheet soaked with disinfectant and pack it into leak proof plastic body bag, the exterior of which again be decontaminated with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.

- Place the plastic body bag in the closed coffin mounted stretcher. The stretcher to be properly disinfected once body is transferred.

- The body will be transferred by the administration to the CMO to arrange for transport to the crematorium under police supervision.

- Finally, disinfection shall be done as per norm. [All surfaces of the isolation area (floors, beds, railings, side tables, IV stands, van or ambulance etc.) should be wiped with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution; allow a contact time of 30 minutes, and then allow to air dry.]

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

- All the staff identified to handle dead bodies in the isolation area, mortuary, ambulance and those workers in the crematorium/ burial ground should be trained in the infection prevention control practices.

AT THE CREMATORIUM/BURIAL GROUND

- The crematorium/ burial ground staff will practice standard precautions of hand hygiene, use of masks and gloves
- Any religious rituals which does not require touching of the dead body can be allowed.
- Viewing of the dead body by unzipping the face end of the body bag (by the staff using standard precautions) may be allowed, for the relatives to see the body for one last time.
- Bathing, kissing, hugging, etc. of the dead body should not be allowed.
- The funeral/burial staff and family members should perform hand hygiene after Cremation/burial.
- Anything from these patients like clothing, precious jewellery, watches etc. not to be handed over to family members directly, without sterilizing.
- The ash does not pose any risk and can be collected to perform last rites.
- Large gathering at the crematorium/burial ground should be avoided as a social distancing measure.

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