

Latest Advice for Handling Dead Bodies During the Covid-19 Outbreak

Don't forget funeral services personnel have been dealing with infected bodies for some time. Nothing about protection has changed. If in doubt revert to the safest option.

- The act of moving a recently deceased patient onto a trolley for transportation might be sufficient to expel small amounts of air from the lungs and thereby present a minor risk.
- Washing or preparing the body is acceptable if those carrying out the task wear PPE.
- Personnel likely to be exposed to a potential infection risk must be advised of the biohazard risk.
- A body bag should be used for transferring the body and those handling the body at this point should use full PPE.
- The outer surface of the body bag should be disinfected before viewings (if applicable). This may require at least two individuals wearing such protective clothing, in order to manage this process
- The trolley carrying the body must be disinfected before viewings.
- Embalming is not recommended unless there are appropriate controls to manage aerosol generating procedures.

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