

Risk Assessment: This risk assessment covers the infection risk from handling the deceased within the funeral industry. It covers retrieval & preparation of the deceased as well as attendance by visitors to view the body & attend funeral services.		
Assessor(s): Simon Bloxham – Safety For Business (UK) Ltd	Date: 1 st April 2020 (Review to be ongoing during pandemic)	Persons at Risk: Employee / Members of the Public

Hazards Identified

- Infection risk from handling deceased persons with COVID 19 infection
- Potential for significant spread of the disease
- Potential for fatalities
- Potential for sickness and illness affecting staff
- Loss of staff leading to inability to provide services to the public

Persons or Property at Risk

Staff and Members of the Public

Risk Control Measures to Use

- Ascertain status of deceased (are they infected or potentially infected with COVID 19)
- Follow standard infection control procedures
 - Handwashing – Use of soap and water and specific technique for cleaning. Handwashing to take place after contact with the body, body fluids and the surroundings of the deceased.
 - Safe management of blood and body fluids – Spillages to be decontaminated and disposed of correctly.
 - Safe management of equipment – Equipment to be cleaned and disinfected.
 - Safe disposal of waste – Following correct procedures for the safe disposal of waste.
 - Safe management of linen – Segregation of clean and dirty linen. Safe cleaning of contaminated linen.
 - Safe use of PPE (see below for latest requirements)
- Use of minimal areas for managing the deceased
- Minimal personnel exposed to the deceased person and surroundings
- Cessation of smoking, drinking, eating and anything else that will bring your hands into contact with the mouth
- Cover cuts and abrasions on exposed skin with water-proof dressings followed by disposable gloves
- Allow only minimal numbers to view body and attend funeral ceremony

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): The current recommendation for PPE is as follows.

Personal Protective Equipment Type	Non-Intrusive Procedures	Intrusive Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admission of Deceased ▪ Booking-in of Deceased ▪ Preparation for Viewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Embalming
Disposable Gloves	Yes	Yes
Disposable Plastic Apron	Yes	Yes
Disposable Gown	No	Yes
Fluid Resistant (Type IIR) Surgical Mask	Yes	No
Filtering Face Piece - FFP3 Respirator	No	Yes
Disposable Eye Protection	Yes	Yes

Further Control Measures that Could be Used to Further Protect Personnel if Required

- Body bags (leak proof) can be used for bodies likely to leak body fluids
- Cover mouth, nose and eyes on COVID 19 removal with wadding to prevent escape of aerosols from deceased.
- FFP3 masks can always be used whether confirmed or not
- Prevention of viewing the deceased for confirmed deaths from COVID 19
- Full length gauntlets may prevent infection from deceased who are confirmed as deaths from COVID 19

Further Comments As far as possible the UK Government advice for measures to take to protect against COVID 19 must be considered and introduced into the organisation.