

From Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana
Health Department

To All the Civil Surgeons of Haryana State

Memo No: 3PM(COVID)-2020/3780-3801

Dated: 08.04.2020

Subject: COVID-19: Protocol for management of Dead Bodies.

Reference to the subject cited above and in continuation to letter regarding guidelines for management of dead body dated 29.03.2020 and 02.04.2020.

It is intimated that State Government has decided that in case of eventuality, where the COVID-19 patient/suspect dies, the cremation/burial of dead bodies would be done by State Authorities, at the nearest cremation/burial ground.

In this regard, it is directed the following:

1. Nominate an officer, not below the rank of SMO, as Nodal Officer for management of dead bodies and intimate his/her contact details.
2. Ensure handling of dead bodies strictly as per the guidelines, issued by MoHFW (GoI) (already circulated & copy attached).
3. Transportation of dead bodies to the nearest cremation/burial ground, in coordination with Local Bodies (MC, etc.) for cremation/burial by Local Bodies (MC, etc.)
4. Identify a vehicle for transportation of dead bodies, on hiring basis, for this purpose. However, in case of non-availability of vehicle on hiring basis, Kilkari Ambulance may be used in concurrence with O/o NHM, Haryana.
5. Ensure decontamination of such designated vehicle after each visit, as per guidelines.
6. Ensure implementation of personal protection by staff, handling the dead bodies, as already circulated.

8.4.2020

**Director General Health Services, Haryana
For: Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana
Health Department**

Endst. No: 3PM(COVID)-2020/3802-3843

Dated: 08.04.2020

A copy is forwarded to the following for kind information and necessary action please:-

1. Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana.
2. Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana, Medical Education & Research Department.
3. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana.
4. Director General, Urban Local Bodies, Haryana.
5. Mission Director, NHM
6. All the Deputy Commissioners of the State.
7. PS to Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana.
8. PS to Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Health Dept.
9. PS to Additional Secretary Health.
10. All the Nodal Officers of designated COVID-19 hospitals (Phase-I)

8.4.2020

**Director General Health Services, Haryana
For: Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana
Health Department**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

ORDER

In exercise of power conferred by the Haryana Epidemic Disease, COVID-19, Regulation, 2020 under the Epidemic Disease Act-1897 and in continuation to the earlier order vide Letter No.546-846/COVID/2020 dated 04.04.2020. Now, it is imperative to fix roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in COVID dead body management and to define the process. Therefore, the due process is hereby defined as follows:-

I. In case of COVID death occurred at hospital:-

- The hospital shall inform concerned Civil Surgeon regarding death and then Civil Surgeon shall inform concerned District Magistrate and Commissioner/EO/Secretary of ULB, as case may be.
- Hospital should decide whether to carry out Autopsy or not.
- Hospital should store the body in the mortuary after ensuring proper disinfection of the body and the body bag as per the guidelines;
- Hospital should provide trained healthcare worker to handle and pack body.
- Hospital should provide Hearse Van to carry, the body to the Cremation/burial ground to ensure that no further infecting is caused.

- The trained Health Care worker should accompany the Hearse Van.
- The trained health care worker should wear proper protective gears all the time as per protocol.
- Once dead body sent to cremation/burial ground by hospital, it is the responsibility of concerned ULB to dispose of dead body strictly as per guidelines/protocol of MoHFW, GoI.
- The Hearse Van used must be brought back to the hospital and disinfected as per the protocol before letting it go.

II. In case, COVID death occurred outside Health Care Facility:-

- The relatives of COVID deceased shall inform concerned Civil Surgeon regarding death, then Civil Surgeon will designate a hospital for this purpose and also, inform immediately concerned District Magistrate and Commissioner/ EO/ Secretary of ULB, as case may be.
- Hospital should decide whether to carry out Autopsy or not.
- Hospital should store the body in the mortuary after ensuring proper disinfection of the body and the body bag as per the guidelines;
- Hospital should provide trained healthcare worker to handle and pack body.

- Hospital should provide Hearse Van to carry, the body to the Cremation/burial ground to ensure that no further infecting is caused.
- The trained Health Care worker should accompany the Hearse Van.
- The trained health care worker should wear proper protective gears all the time as per protocol.
- Once dead body sent to cremation/burial ground by hospital, it is the responsibility of concerned ULB to dispose of dead body strictly as per guidelines/protocol of MoHFW, GoI.
- The Hearse Van used must be brought back to the hospital and disinfected as per the protocol before letting it go.

Apart from above, the guidelines/protocol of MoHFW, GoI be followed strictly

RAJEEV ARORA, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana,
Health Department.

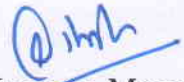
Endst. No. 847-1250 /COVID/2020

Dated: 06/04/2020

A copy along with the guidelines on dead body management issued by Directorate General of Health Services (EMR Division) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

1. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Haryana.
2. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Govt. of Haryana.

3. All the Heads of the Departments in the state of Haryana.
4. All the Managing Directors/ Chief Administrators of Boards/ Corporations in the State of Haryana.
5. The Registrar, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.
6. The Registrars of all the Universities in the State of Haryana.
7. All the Divisional Commissioners in the State of Haryana.
8. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State of Haryana.
9. All the Commissioners of Police in the State of Haryana.
10. All the Superintendents of Police in the State of Haryana.
11. All Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in the State of Haryana.
12. All Executive Officers of Municipal Councils in the State of Haryana.
13. All Secretaries of Municipal Committees in the State of Haryana.
14. All Civil Surgeons in the State of Haryana.



Ashok Kumar Meena, IAS
Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration Haryana
for Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana,
Health Department



**Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
(EMR Division)**

COVID-19: GUIDELINES ON DEAD BODY MANAGEMENT

15.03.2020

1. Scope of the document

- There are currently over 100 laboratory confirmed cases and two deaths due to Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in India. Being a new disease there is knowledge gap on how to dispose of dead body of a suspect or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- This guideline is based on the current epidemiological knowledge about the COVID-19. India is currently having travel related cases and few cases of local transmission. At this stage, all suspect/ confirmed cases will be isolated in a health care facility. Hence the document is limited in scope to hospital deaths.

2. Key Facts

- The main driver of transmission of COVID-19 is through droplets. There is unlikely to be an increased risk of COVID infection from a dead body to health workers or family members who follow standard precautions while handling body.
- Only the lungs of dead COVID patients, if handled during an autopsy, can be infectious.

3. Standard Precautions to be followed by health care workers while handling dead bodies of COVID.

Standard infection prevention control practices should be followed at all times.

These include:

1. Hand hygiene.
2. Use of personal protective equipment (e.g., water resistant apron, gloves, masks, eyewear).
3. Safe handling of sharps.

4. Disinfect bag housing dead body; instruments and devices used on the patient.
5. Disinfect linen. Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces.

4. Training in infection and prevention control practices

All 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.

5. Removal of the body from the isolation room or area

- The health worker attending to the dead body should perform hand hygiene, ensure proper use of PPE (water resistant apron, goggles, N95 mask, gloves).
- All tubes, drains and catheters on the dead body should be removed.
- Any puncture holes or wounds (resulting from removal of catheter, drains, tubes, or otherwise) should be disinfected with 1% hypochlorite and dressed with impermeable material.
- Apply caution while handling sharps such as intravenous catheters and other sharp devices. They should be disposed into a sharps container.
- Plug Oral, nasal orifices of the dead body to prevent leakage of body fluids.
- 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 Precautions.
- Place the dead body in leak-proof plastic body bag. The exterior of the body bag can be decontaminated with 1% hypochlorite. The body bag can be wrapped with a mortuary sheet or sheet provided by the family members.

- The body will be either handed over to the relatives or taken to mortuary.
- All used/ soiled linen should be handled with standard precautions, put in bio-hazard bag and the outer surface of the bag disinfected with hypochlorite solution.
- Used equipment should be autoclaved or decontaminated with disinfectant solutions in accordance with established infection prevention control practices.
- All medical waste must be handled and disposed of in accordance with Bio-medical waste management rules.
- The health staff who handled the body will remove personal protective equipment and will perform hand hygiene.
- Provide counseling to the family members and respect their sentiments.

6. Environmental cleaning and disinfection

All surfaces of the isolation area (floors, bed, railings, side tables, IV stand, etc.) should be wiped with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution; allow a contact time of 30 minutes, and then allowed to air dry.

7. Handling of dead body in Mortuary

- Mortuary staff handling COVID dead body should observe standard precautions.
- Dead bodies should be stored in cold chambers maintained at approximately 4°C.
- The mortuary must be kept clean. Environmental surfaces, instruments and transport trolleys should be properly disinfected with 1% Hypochlorite solution.
- After removing the body, the chamber door, handles and floor should be cleaned with sodium hypochlorite 1% solution.

8. Embalming

- Embalming of dead body should not be allowed.

9. Autopsies on COVID-19 dead bodies

Autopsies should be avoided. If autopsy is to be performed for special reasons, the following infection prevention control practices should be adopted:

- The Team should be well trained in infection prevention control practices.
- The number of forensic experts and support staff in the autopsy room should be limited.
- The Team should use full complement of PPE (coveralls, head cover, shoe cover, N 95 mask, goggles / face shield).
- Round ended scissors should be used
- PM40 or any other heavy duty blades with blunted points to be used to reduce prick injuries
- Only one body cavity at a time should be dissected
- Unfixed organs must be held firm on the table and sliced with a sponge – care should be taken to protect the hand
- Negative pressure to be maintained in mortuary. An oscillator saw with suction extraction of the bone aerosol into a removable chamber should be used for sawing skull, otherwise a hand saw with a chain-mail glove may be used
- Needles should not be re-sheathed after fluid sampling – needles and syringes should be placed in a sharps bucket.
- Reduce aerosol generation during autopsy using appropriate techniques especially while handling lung tissue.

- After the procedure, body should be disinfected with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite and placed in a body bag, the exterior of which will again be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution.
- The body thereafter can be handed over to the relatives.
- Autopsy table to be disinfected as per standard protocol.

10. Transportation

- The body, secured in a body bag, exterior of which is decontaminated poses no additional risk to the staff transporting the dead body.
- The personnel handling the body may follow standard precautions (surgical mask, gloves).
- The vehicle, after the transfer of the body to cremation/ burial staff, will be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite.

11. At the crematorium/ Burial Ground

- The Crematorium/ burial Ground staff should be sensitized that COVID 19 does not pose additional risk.
- The staff will practice standard precautions of hand hygiene, use of masks and gloves.
- 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.
- Religious rituals such as reading from religious scripts, sprinkling holy water and any other last rites that does not require touching of the body can be allowed.
- 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.
- The ash does not pose any risk and can be collected to perform the last rites.
- Large gathering at the crematorium/ burial ground should be avoided as a social distancing measure as it is possible that close family contacts may be symptomatic and/ or shedding the virus.