

MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGERS



The death management process should be able to continue even with the pressure of many cases while maintaining the welfare of the staff and of the affected communities.



Safety and well-being of staff is the first priority. Ensure all necessary equipment is provided as well as the required guidance and support throughout the process.



In all situations and in line with standard health and safety procedures, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) is standard practice for the handling of the deceased. A risk assessment should be conducted to determine that the recommended level of PPE is adhered to prior to handling COVID-19 infected bodies.

The following personal protective equipment (PPE) should be used during body handling and preparation process.

The highest risk for body handlers may come from working in overcrowded environments with infected people. When properly worn, the recommended PPE provides adequate protection.



GOWN

Clean, long-sleeved fluid-resistant or impermeable gown to protect skin and clothing.



GLOVES

Nonsterile, nitrile gloves when handling potentially infectious materials.



APRON

Waterproof.



BOOTS

Standard rubber boots that can be disinfected after use or shoe covers that can be disposed of.



FACE SHIELD OR GOGGLES

To protect the face, eyes, nose, and mouth from splashes of potentially infectious bodily fluids.



RESPIRATOR

Use FFP3/ 2 or N95 respirator as deemed appropriate.



Ensure that all are briefed on health and safety measures, such as those recommended by the health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Every effort should be made to ensure the reliable documentation, identification and traceability of the dead and the certification of death. By all means, avoid quick and careless disposal of bodies of individuals who have died due to COVID-19.



Effective communication and coordination among all agencies involved and other service providers is essential.



The families and loved ones of the deceased should be given relevant information, especially on the status of infection of the deceased.



Policy and practice must uphold respect towards the deceased individuals and their families and should not undermine the dignity of the dead.

