Post Mortem Care of a COVID+ or Suspected COVID+ Patient

- Maintain isolation precautions including PPE requirements while performing post mortem care.
- Follow routine care of the post mortem patient.
- If respiratory infection is the cause of death:
  * Disinfectant is applied to the decedent airways.
  * Advise the funeral practitioner at the time of initial death notification.

What HAS changed:

- If respiratory infection is the cause of death, disinfectant is to be applied to the decedent airways.
- Cover decedent with a sheet to minimize aerosolized droplets before placing in a body bag.
- Morgue tag is attached to the zipper of the body bag.
- Place two patient labels on the outside of the body bag, one on the top and one on the bottom.
- Affix the COVID Advisory Label in plain view on the outside of the body bag.
- Disinfect the outside of the bag with Super Sani wipes or Bleach wipes after transfer to the stretcher.

COVID-19 Confirmed or Suspected

- Disinfect the outside of the bag with Super Sani wipes or Bleach wipes after transfer to the stretcher.
Visitation of Deceased COVID+/Suspected Patients

- There will be no visitation of deceased COVID+/Suspected patients.
- Once the body bag has been secured, the bag will not be opened again until it has arrived at the funeral home.

Prior to providing post mortem care, the RN ensures that all cultural needs that affect care of the body after death (per the family &/or SO) have been addressed.

What has NOT changed:
- Initiate site specific process for notifications of death (i.e.: ASC, Spiritual Care, NOM, etc.).
- RN/Family Liaison initiates call to Lifebanc (1-800-558-LIFE) to report EVERY DEATH.
  * Life Banc Notification documentation to be included in medical record: Lifebanc notification occurred, date/time of the call, and name of Lifebanc representative.
  * Place patient belongings in a sealable plastic bag and wipe down the outside of the bag with disinfectant.
- Usual paperwork (death packet) and tags are to be completed,
- With the exception of a death deemed to be a coroner’s case, prepare the body for transfer including removal of all tubes and lines.
- RN/Family Liaison contacts the family to provide support, answer questions and complete the appropriate paperwork which includes: Patient’s Personal Items Checklist, Release To Undertaker, and Autopsy Consent Form (if appropriate).
  * Be sure to get the name and phone number(s) where NOK/LNOK can be reached within a few hours of contact. Suggested scripting: “Could we please have a phone number where we can reach you within the next few hours or so in case the hospital or one of the agencies we work with need to contact you?”
- RN verifies patient’s personal items are bagged and accompany the decedent to the morgue.
- RN documents the death and in the appropriate medical record.
- Perform post mortem care.
  * Pad the wrists and ankles to prevent bruises, and tie them together with gauze or soft string ties.
  * Fill out identification tags with the deceased.
  * Tie the body identification tag to the deceased patient’s toe, but do not remove his/her identification bracelet to ensure correct identification.

Main Campus: Health Education Campus Inpatient Units (HOPE Hospital ONLY)

In the event that a COVID+/Suspected Decedent of the inpatient units located at the Health Education Campus (HOPE).
- Follow the process outlined above for decedent preparation.
- Contact the Administrative Service Center (ASC) and advise that a transport will be needed by ambulance to the COVID+ morgue area.
- The ASC will make contact with the designated ambulance and make arrangements for descendent transport.
- Upon their arrival, the appropriately prepped decedent is to be taken to the Receiving Dock, along with all required forms, and released to the representatives of the ambulance company.
- The Family Liaison assigned will be responsible for noting the COVID-19 status of the patient on the Expiration Form.
The COVID-19+/Suspected Decedent Patient Contact Tracking Form

- The form is to be kept with the decedent patient from the point of death, to the morgue.
- Each person who has contact with the body, is required to sign the Tracking Form and log
  * the Location of contact
  * the Purpose of contact
  * any Comments relative to special circumstances or occurrences during the contact (i.e.; body bag failure/tearing, unprotected exposure, etc.).

![Cleveland Clinic](image)

**COVID-19+/Suspected Decedent Patient Contact TRACKING FORM**

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<tr>
<th>1. Patient Name</th>
<th>2. MR#</th>
<th>3. Point of Origin</th>
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<tr>
<th>4. Caregiver Contacts</th>
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<th>Emp #</th>
<th>Location</th>
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