

प्रेषक,

डा० रजनीश दुबे,
प्रमुख सचिव,
उ०प्र० शासन

सेवा में,

1. कुलसचिव,
किंग जार्ज चिकित्सा विश्वविद्यालय,
उ०प्र० लखनऊ
2. कुलसचिव,
उ०प्र० आयुर्विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय,
सैफई इटावा
3. निदेशक,
एस०जी०पी०जी०आई०,
लखनऊ
4. निदेशक,
डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया
आयुर्विज्ञान
संस्थान, लखनऊ
5. निदेशक,
सुपर स्पेशियलिटी बाल चिकित्सालय
एवं स्नातकोत्तर शिक्षण संस्थान,
नोएडा
6. निदेशक,
राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान,
ग्रेटर नोएडा
7. समस्त प्रधानाचार्य, राजकीय
मेडिकल कालेज, उ०प्र०
8. समस्त प्रधानाचार्य, स्वशासी
राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय,
उ०प्र०।

चिकित्सा शिक्षा अनुभाग-2

लखनऊ : दिनांक 3 अप्रैल, 2020

विषय:- Covid-19 संक्रमण से ग्रस्त व्यक्तियों की मेडिकल कालेज/संस्थान के चिकित्सालयों में मृत्यु की दशा में शव के निस्तारण के संबंध में दिशा-निर्देश महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक पर स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा दिनांक 15.03.2020 को निर्गत Covid-19: Guidelines On Dead Body Management की छायाप्रति संलग्न कर प्रेषित करते हुए मुझे यह कहने का निदेश हुआ है कि Covid-19 के संक्रमण से ग्रस्त रोगियों की मृत्यु की दशा में शव के निस्तारण हेतु उक्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित किया जाए।

2- Covid-19 के संक्रमण से हुई मृत्यु की स्थिति में मृतक के परिजनों तथा मीडिया को सूचना संबंधित चिकित्सा संस्था के प्रमुख अथवा अपरिहार्य परिस्थिति में चिकित्सा संस्था के प्रमुख द्वारा अधिकृत वरिष्ठ चिकित्सक द्वारा ही सूचना दी जाय। सूचना देते समय संबंधित चिकित्सक को औपचारिक चिकित्सकीय वेश भूषा में होना चाहिए।

3- Covid-19: Guidelines On Dead Body Management से संबंधित दिशा निर्देशों के क्रियान्वयन हेतु पुलिस प्रशासन द्वारा आवश्यक पुलिस बल की व्यवस्था की जायेगी।

कृपया उक्त निर्देशों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने का कष्ट करें।
संलग्नक यथोक्त।

भवदीय,

(डा० रजनीश दुबे)
प्रमुख सचिव।

संख्या एवं दिनांक तदैव-

प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित:-

1. अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग, उ०प्र० शासन
2. निजी सचिव, मा० मंत्री, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, उ०प्र० शासन
3. प्रमुख सचिव, चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उ०प्र० शासन
4. प्रमुख स्टाफ आफिसर, मुख्य सचिव, उ०प्र० शासन
5. महानिदेशक, चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण, उ०प्र०, लखनऊ को इस आशय से प्रेषित कि वे निजी क्षेत्र के समस्त 27 मेडिकल कालेजों के प्रबन्धकों/प्रधानाचार्यों को उक्त दिशा निर्देश की प्रति उपलब्ध करायेगें
6. पुलिस महानिदेशक, उ०प्र०, लखनऊ
7. समस्त जिलाधिकारी, उ०प्र०
8. गार्ड बुक।

आज्ञा से,

/
(कुलदीप कुमार रस्तोगी)
उप सचिव।



S.O. 4

**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.