

GUIDELINES FOR THE HANDLING OF DEAD BODIES

Category 1

BODIES FROM ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR WARD TO MORTUARY

The dead body must be wrapped with a white cotton linen sheet and placed in an opaque non-porous water proof and leak proof body bag. Identification label must be attached.

Category 2

TRANSPORTING BODIES WITH SUSPECTED/ PROBABLE/ CONFIRMED covid-19 INFECTION FROM ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR WARD pro MORTUARY.

Body preparation:

- Identification label must be attached.
- Wrap body with white cotton linen sheet.
- The bodies must be placed in 2 layers of body bags. (non-porous water proof and leak proof body bag)
- First layer: Place body in body bag. It is optional to wipe or spray the bag especially at and around the zipper with disinfectant 0.5% sodium hypochlorite.
- Second layer: Place body in the next body bag, then the body bag must be wiped or sprayed with disinfectant 0.5% sodium hypochlorite.
- Body transfer from the ward / Accident & Emergency Department shall be carried out by 2 staff (one from A & E / ward and one from mortuary). Both staff personal protective equipment (N95 mask, face shield, gloves, long-sleeved fluid repellent disposable gown, PPE).

- On arrival at the mortuary, the body must be immediately placed in a designated refrigerated body storage compartment.

Category 3

Bodies of Babies/ Infant/ Small children must be wrapped in white cotton linen sheet and placed in children body bags.

(Two layers body bags in cases of suspected/ probable/ confirmed Covid-19 infection).

Cases to be referred for autopsy:-

- Sudden unexpected young death with any disease/ pathology.
- Drowning.
- Hanging
- Road traffic accident
- Homicide
- Accidental death / fall from height/ at work place
- Death in police custody/ prison/ rehabilitation center
- Battered child
- Maternal death
- Anesthetic death
- Brought in dead (without any significant disease/ pathology) .

Procedure

- Cases are to be referred to police after brief explanation to relative of decease.
- Transfer body to mortuary pending police enquiry.
- Autopsy will be carried out after all necessary papers (magistrate authority/ I.D)/ Birth certificate/ hospital files/ enquiry report) are available.