

Safe Preparation of Body For Burial

A Burial Kit is being provided to aid in the appropriate and safe preparation of the body for burial of someone who has died from a suspected or known case of COVID-19 virus. The contents of the kit allow for two (2) people to participate in preparing the body for burial.

Consider very carefully who will be involved with preparing the body of your loved one. COVID-19 spreads from person to person very easily. We know some people are at much higher risk of death due to the disease.

People who are at higher risk include:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People with lung disease (including asthma)
- People with heart conditions
- People who have a weakened immune system (due to cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiency, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, or taking medicine that suppresses the immune system)
- People who are severely obese (BMI \geq 40)
- People with diabetes
- People with renal failure
- People with liver disease

It is recommended that anyone with any of the previously listed conditions avoid any contact with the body of someone who has died from a suspected or known case of COVID-19.

Kit contents:

- 2 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE). Each set includes a mask, a pair of gloves, a protective gown, a set of shoe covers, eye protection. These items should be used by the two people who will be involved with preparing the body for burial
- 1 body sheath
- 1 body bag

We understand there are many traditional burial customs that are normally followed after losing a loved one. However, **in order to protect you, your family, and community from the COVID-19 virus, EXPOSURE to the body MUST BE LIMITED. The body must be buried PROMPTLY to decrease spread of the disease.**

Please follow the burial preparation instructions on the following page.

CORONAVIRUS – COVID19

Anyone with any of the high-risk conditions listed on the previous page should not be involved with burial preparations of the body of someone who died due to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. For those who are involved with burial preparations, please follow the instructions below.

1. After the person dies, leave the body untouched for one hour, then follow the rest of the instructions.
2. All Preparations should happen in the location where the loved one passed away. Do NOT transport the body to a different location for preparation activities.
3. Remove the protective sheath from the package
4. Remove the body bag from the package
5. Remove the two sets of personal protective equipment from the bag
6. Each person helping to prepare the body must:
 - a. Use the facemask to cover their own mouth and nose
 - b. Put on the gloves
 - c. Put on the protective gown on over their clothes
 - d. Put on the eye protection
7. **Do not wash or dress the body**
8. Wrap the body in the protective sheath
9. Place the body which has already been wrapped in the sheath inside the body bag and close the bag
10. **Once body is inside the bag and the bag has been closed, do not open the bag!**
11. After the bag is closed, wipe the bag to remove any potential virus on the bag to prevent spreading the disease. The bag can be wiped with one of the following:
 - a. Sanitizing wipes from the village clinic
 - b. A bleach solution that can be obtained from the village clinic
12. **The body, in the bag, must be buried PROMPTLY!** It is very important to prevent further spread of the disease that the prepared body be buried as soon as reasonably possible
13. Once the body has been placed in the bag and the bag has been wiped clean, the room where the body was prior to being placed in the bag should also be cleaned. Please clean the room using the same cleaning supplies as were used for the outside of the bag wherever possible.
14. When all cleaning activities have been completed, the protective gown, mask, gloves and eye protection should be removed and should be thrown away along with all materials used for cleaning.