



GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
RELIEF REHABILITATION & SETTLEMENT
DEPARTMENT

Dated 19th March, 2020

NOTIFICATION

No. SO(Estt)RR&SD/3-5/2019: In pursuance of the declaration of emergency throughout the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to Corona Virus (COVID19), vide this Department Notification of even No. dated 3.5.2019 under clauses (c), (g) and (i) of sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the National Disaster Management Authority (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Act, 2010, the Authority is pleased to lay down the following **Guidelines for Dead Body Management** as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) provided by Director Public Health, DG Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

1- 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.

2- Key Standard Precautions to be followed by the Healthcare workers while handling dead bodies of COVID:

Standard infection prevention control practices should be followed at all times. These include:

- Hand hygiene.
- Use of personal protective equipment (e.g., water resistant apron, gloves, masks, eyewear).
- Safe handling of sharps.
- Disinfect bag housing dead body; instruments and devices used on the patient.
- Disinfect linen. Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces.

3- 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 burial ground should be trained in the infection prevention control practices.

4- 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 carefully 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 hospital sheet or sheet provided by the family members. The body shall additionally be kept in wooden coffin.
- Now the body can be handed over to the relatives.
- All used/ soiled linen should be handled with standard precautions, put in biohazard 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 Biomedical waste management plan.
- The health staff who handled the body will remove personal protective equipment and will perform hand hygiene.
- Provide counselling to the family members and respect their sentiments.

5- 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.

6- Autopsies on COVID-19 dead bodies :

Autopsies should be avoided.

7- 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 burial workers, will be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite.

8- At the Burial Ground

- The burial Ground staff/workers 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 close relatives may be allowed through glass pane window through the coffin only, for them to see the body for one last time.
- Religious rituals and any other last rites that does not require touching of the coffin can be allowed.
- From public health view point, Bathing, touching and hugging of the dead body should not be allowed
- The funeral/ burial staff and family members should perform hand hygiene after burial.

- Large gathering at the 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.

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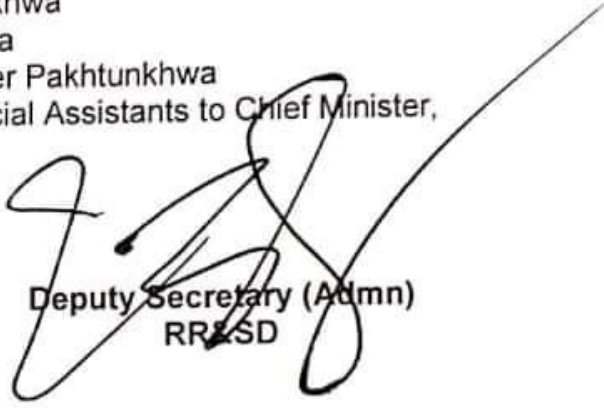
Secretary

Relief, Rehabilitation and
Settlement Department

Endst: No. & Date Even

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Deputy Secretary (Admn)
RR&SD