

Postmortem Care

Why: To ensure staff are safe when caring for deceased patients.

Who: All healthcare professionals assisting with postmortem care.

What: Utilizing the correct level of PPE when providing postmortem care.

When: Postmortem

Where: In the patients room/care area and transport to the morgue.



Additional [COVID-19](#) resources

Guidance for Postmortem Care of COVID-19 Patient

No aerosolized treatments or procedures prior to expiring

1. Don PPE which includes simple facemask, nitrile gloves, and gown. Perform disinfection of high-touch surfaces in the room and the patient bed.
2. Doff PPE and perform hand hygiene.
3. Don clean simple facemask, nitrile gloves, and gown to handle the body and body bag. The simple facemask prevents inhaling air expressed from the corpse during movement. Wear eye protection when there is a splash risk, such as removing central lines or invasive equipment.
4. Disinfect the outside of the bag with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant.
5. Follow standard routine procedures when transporting body.

Additional precautions for patients who have received aerosolized treatments or procedures prior to expiring

- Prior to performing postmortem care allow for 1 hour of air exchanges to clear virus from airborne precautions room after patient death.
- After 1 hour of air exchange postmortem, you no longer need the higher level PPE of eye protection, N95 respirator or PAPR, gown and gloves. You may switch to lower level PPE outlined above.
- Follow steps 1-5 above.

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