

**GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DEAD BODIES OF
SUSPECTED/PROBABLE/CONFIRMED COVID-19**

- A. GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT OF BODY WITH SUSPECTED/
PROBABLE/ CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION FROM EMERGENCY
DEPARTMENT OR WARD TO MORTUARY.**

- B. GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF BROUGHT IN DEAD CASES DUE
TO SUSPECTED OR PROBABLE COVID-19 INFECTION.**

- C. GUIDELINES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF DECEASED IN CASES DUE TO
SUSPECTED/ PROBABLE/ CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION.**

(A) GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT OF BODY WITH SUSPECTED/PROBABLE/CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION FROM EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR WARD TO THE MORTUARY

1. Bodies of suspected/probable/confirmed COVID-19 infection shall be sent from the Emergency Department or ward to the mortuary as soon as practicable.
2. Staff must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing (N95 masks, face shield, long sleeve fluid repellent disposable gown and gloves) while handling / preparing the body.
3. Relatives are **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** to touch or kiss the body. The number of relatives allowed to view the body for identification must be minimized to **1 PERSON ONLY**. They must wear mask N95, face shield, gloves and protective aprons. They should only be allowed to stand at a minimum of 1 meter from the body.
4. Relatives are **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** to handle the body at any circumstances.
5. Body shall be prepared in the ward (ie the Last Office) by the ward staff before conveying to the mortuary.
6. Body preparation:

The bodies must be placed in **2 layers body bag**

- 6.1. First layer : Wrap body with white cotton linen.
- 6.2. Second 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.
- 6.3. Third layer : Place body in body bag, then the body bag must be wiped or sprayed with disinfectant 0.5% sodium hypochlorite.
7. Body transfer from the ward / ED shall be carried out by 2 attendants (one each from the ED/ward and mortuary). Both attendants must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (N95, face shield, gloves and protective apron).
8. On arrival at the mortuary, the body must be immediately placed in a designated refrigerated body storage compartment.
9. Sampling for all suspected or probable COVID-19 cases shall be taken in Emergency Department or ward by respective team.

(B) GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF BROUGHT IN DEAD (BID) CASES DUE TO SUSPECTED OR PROBABLE COVID-19 INFECTION.

1. Bodies of suspected or probable COVID-19 infection which are brought in dead shall be sent to the mortuary at the respective hospital.
2. The bodies must be placed in **2 layers body bag**.
 - 2.1. First layer : Place body in body bag. Its optional to wipe or spray the bag especially at and around the zipper with disinfectant 0.5% sodium hypochlorite.
 - 2.2. Second layer: Place body in body bag, then the body bag must be wiped or sprayed with disinfectant 0.5% sodium hypochlorite.
3. The receiving medical staff shall:
 - 3.1 Wear appropriate PPE.
 - 3.2 Obtain a police order (Polis 61) for post-mortem examination.
 - 3.3 Communicate/discuss the case with the forensic pathologist at the referral forensic centre to decide how to perform the post-mortem.
 - 3.4 Notify the case to the following **SIMULTANEOUSLY**:
 - 3.4.1. The National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre.
 - 3.4.2 The respective State Health Department (JKN).
 - 3.4.3 The respective District Health Office (PKD).
4. Samplings for COVID-19 shall be taken in the Forensic Department. **PPE to be worn during sampling: scrub suit, N95 mask, face shield, long sleeve plastic apron, head cover and boots.**
5. The body will be kept in the Forensic Department Mortuary until the laboratory test on the body status of COVID-19 result arrived.

(C) GUIDELINES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF DECEASED IN CASES DUE TO SUSPECTED/PROBABLE/CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION

1. It is recommended that bodies of suspected or probable COVID-19 infection (whether post mortem was done or not) shall be disposed of (burial or cremation) as soon as practicable.
2. All deaths of suspected / probable COVID-19 such as SARI or PUI cases, the body shall be prepared and managed as COVID-19 cases and sent to the Forensic Department until the result is available. If the body is confirmed COVID-19 positive, the following management below applies. If the result is COVID-19 negative the body shall be managed as any non-COVID-19 cases.
3. Religious body preparation must be conducted under supervision of the Environmental Health Officer.
4. Embalming must be avoided.
5. Confirmed COVID-19 Muslim body shall not be washed (*mandi mayat*). The procedure of *mandi mayat* shall be replaced by *tayammum* over the outermost body bag.
6. For confirmed COVID-19 non-muslim body, all bodies shall be disposed either by burial or cremation. If any ritual body preparation is to be conducted, the procedure shall be kept at minimum and done over the outermost body bag.
7. The release of the body to the relatives must be carried out with strict precautionary measures under the supervision of the Environmental Health Officer.
8. Relatives are prohibited from opening the sealed coffin/sealed body bag and the Environmental Health Officer must ensure this precaution is strictly adhered.
9. All suspected or probable infection with COVID-19 bodies are recommended to be taken for burial or cremation directly from the mortuary, preferably within the same day of the post-mortem examination.
10. Deaths occurring in private hospitals shall follow the same procedure as outlined above. The body to be released for burial/cremation from the Private Hospital.

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the Protective Garments and the Respiratory Protection.

PROTECTIVE GARMENTS INCLUDE: -

- Disposable Scrub suit or equivalent.
- Disposable waterproof Coverall / jump-suit with full feet cover.
- Knee length Boots.
- Disposable shoe covers.
- Impervious full-length sleeve disposable plastic apron.
- Cut-resistant gloves.
- Double gloves (with the outer layer is elbow length gloves) **ELBOW LENGTH GLOVES NOT REQUIRED IF LONG SLEEVE APRON IS WORN.**

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION INCLUDE: -

Full faced *Powered Air Purifying Respirators* (PAPR) with HEPA filter (A loose fitting type is recommended). This respirator consists of a hood or helmet, breathing tube, battery-operated blower, and HEPA filters. It meets the CDC guidelines.

FORENSIC MEDICINE REFERRAL CENTER

Bil.	Hospital
1.	Hospital Kuala Lumpur
2.	Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah
3.	Hospital Pulau Pinang
4.	Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh, Perak
5.	Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor
6.	Hospital Serdang, Selangor
7.	Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang, Selangor
8.	Hospital Seremban
9.	Hospital Melaka
10.	Hospital Sultan Ismail, Johor Bahru, Johor
11.	Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Johor Bahru, Johor
12.	Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Kuantan, Pahang
13.	Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah
14.	Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kota Bharu, Kelantan
15.	Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
16.	Hospital Umum Sarawak, Kuching, Sarawak
17.	Hospital Miri, Sarawak