

Infection Prevention and Control Manual

Interim Policy for Death of a Resident and Discharge to Funeral Home - COVID-19 Pandemic

Death of a Resident and Discharge to Funeral Home – COVID-19 Pandemic

Policy

It is the policy of this facility that the nurse will contact the resident's immediate family and/or resident representative, attending physician, local/state public health department and notify the local coroner/medical examiner immediately upon the death of any resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 prior to transfer to a funeral home.

PURPOSE:

It is the policy and purpose of this facility to provide proper discharge of a resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 that expired in the facility to be discharged to funeral home.

PROCEDURE:

Upon the death of a resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

1. The resident must be declared legally dead in accordance with state law (either direct or indirect pronouncement by a physician through a licensed nurse).
2. Notify the resident's representative of the resident's death.
3. Notify the local/state public health department of a death of a resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in accordance with state/federal requirements
4. Notify the local coroner or medical examiner prior to transfer.
 - Communicate isolation precautions for COVID-19
5. Contact funeral home for transfer.
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6. Preparation of the body for transfer:
 - After coroner/medical examiner has completed their examination, resident's body can be prepared for removal to the funeral home
 - Staff will with approved COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Follow Standard and Contact Precautions
 - Remove any devices and equipment and perform hygiene care, taking care not to cause undue contact with any blood or body fluids
 - Place clean gown on resident and cover up body with bed linen
 - Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene
7. All information pertaining to the death must be recorded on the nurses' notes (i.e., date, time of death, etc.).
8. The Attending Physician must complete and file a death certificate with the appropriate agency within twenty-four (24) hours of the resident's death.
9. The name of the funeral home and the name of the person removing the body must be entered in the resident's chart.

This resource was developed utilizing Information from CDC and CMS.
Providers are reminded to review state and local specific information for any variance to national guidance

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10. The person picking up the body must sign the release for the body, and the release must be placed in the resident's chart.
11. All records must be completed and forwarded to Medical Records office within twenty-four (24) hours of the discharge.
12. Nursing will be responsible for securing resident's personal items in accordance with isolation precautions and notify family/representative for pick up.
13. Housekeeping will clean and disinfect the resident room in accordance to CDC COVID-19 disinfection guidelines.

Note: All healthcare personnel will be correctly trained and capable of implementing infection control procedures and adhere to requirements. Check the following link regularly for [critical updates](#), such as updates to guidance for using and optimizing [PPE](#), and [infection control guidance for LTC Facilities](#). Follow state/local public health specific guidance as applicable

References and Resources:

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (Rev. 173, 11-22-17): https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltc.pdf
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings February 21, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Strategies to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in LTCF. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. COVID-19 Long Term Care Facility Guidance. April 2, 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/4220-covid-19-long-term-care-facility-guidance.pdf>
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. QSO-20-14-NH. Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-14-nhpdf.pdf>
- EPA Registered Disinfectant Products. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2#file-534797>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health Care Professional. Clinical Guidance and Management of Patients. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>

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