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स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशक
PROF. (DR.) RAJIV GARG
MD (Ophth.) AIIMS
Director General of Health Services



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D.O. No. Z 260/15/131/2020-EMR

दिनांक/Dated: 01.07.2020

Dear Secretary,

Please refer to the issue raised regarding deaths of suspect covid patients and dead bodies not being handed over to the relatives pending confirmation of test report by the hospitals.

I would like to clarify that the dead bodies of such suspected COVID cases should be handed over to their relatives immediately and laboratory confirmation of COVID should not be awaited. These bodies can as a matter of abundant precaution be disposed as per the "Guidelines on dead body management" available on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare dated 15/3/2020, which directs that handlers in PPE accompany the body for final rites.

If such death cases test positive eventually, then the requisite action for contact listing, tracking etc, should be carried out subsequently.

Further necessary action may be taken as per the clarification given above.

With warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,


(Dr. Rajiv Garg)

Principal Secretary/Secretary (Health)

Copy to:

1. Secretary (Health), MoHFW, Govt. of India
2. OSD (Health), MoHFW, Govt. of India
3. JS (RM)
4. Sr. Regional Director/Regional Director of RoHFWs