



DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES
ANANDARAO CIRCLE, BANGALORE - 09

No: DHS/PS/ 29 /2020-21

Dated: 17.04.2020

CIRCULAR

Subject: COVID-19 : Operational Guidelines for disposal of suspected / confirmed cases of COVID-19 dead bodies-Regarding.

The following are the operational guidelines for monitoring disposal / confirmed cases of COVID-19 dead bodies;

Preparedness of Government and Private Hospitals dealing with COVID Cases:

- Separate single room COVID Mortuary Preparedness and SOP.
- PPE availability and procurement @ 6 (1 driver + 1 helper + 4 COVID dead disposals attendants) per COVID body to be stocked in advance sufficiently.
- PPE mandatorily shall include: N95 Mask, surgical cap, protective goggles, water resistant apron, surgical gloves, full shoes with thin level plastic covers, face shield as per specification.
- Freezer boxes as per specification, for preservation and transportation of COVID dead bodies to be made available either through purchase or hiring.
- Body bags Nos. @ 10% of COVID patients in hospital shall be ready at all times.
- Keeping in view the religious practices, to plug the nasal and oral orifices and thereafter to wrap the dead body with plastic sheet, then wrapping with a white Cotton Cloth, ensure that the body -handler wipes, the body over the cloth properly, with proper PPE and then keeping inside the body bag with zip, leak proof and with specified thickness. This body bag thereafter as per guidelines would be earmarked for transport directly to the burial ground. 2 volunteers may be allowed to assist in this.
- Disinfectant (1% sodium hypochlorite), with a spraying schedule on walls, floor, doors, windows, ventilators, roof and other appliances 5 times a day, with sufficient stocks and functional power spray cans inside the mortuary.
- All the material on usage shall be bagged separately in "COVID disposed material for Incineration" and sent in safe method of transport to APPROVED BMW FACILITY for incineration as per standards.
- KSPCB (Karnataka State Pollution Control Board) to strictly track, monitor and certify each disposal of COVID waste material as per norms.
- To erect glass partition window along with aluminum / MS grill and with separate entry and exit for viewing body by deceased family members and relatives and restricting to not more than (5) at any point of time.

- No contact of Doctors/Nurses/Staff with relatives directly.
- One person from medical fraternity shall be the only single point informing and counseling the deceased COVID suspect of positive person.

Preparedness of COVID dead body handling and Transport facility for shifting from hospital to the place of cremation/burial:

- Proper specified closed vehicle to carry the body in Separate Painted COVID – 19 freezer box maintaining temperature @ 4°C.
- Separate stretcher trolley with COVID-19 painted to be arranged.
- Dedicated and earmarked staff with full specified PPE and well trained for handling COVID dead bodies from Designated COVID Hospital to designated Burial / cremation facility.
- Daily spraying of entire vehicle in and out with Sodium Hypochlorite (1%).
- Dedicated Staff for this purpose to be engaged with expertise in handling and transport to be in place by the Hospital concerned.

Keeping in view the likelihood of the COVID-19 disease being contagious to the near and dear ones, in accordance with the SOP of guidelines issued by GOI and also taking into account the valuable advice of prominent elders from the communities, the following protocol is to be followed:

- i) Giving a body shower with 1% Hypochlorite Solution as prescribed before wrapping up the body in plastic sheet.
- ii) To wrap the dead body with plastic sheet.
- iii) Thereafter wrapping with a White Cotton Cloth.
- iv) Ensure that the body-handler wipes the body over the cloth wrapping properly.
- v) Wearing proper PPE.
- vi) Keeping the body inside the Body bag and zipped. This body bag thereafter as per guidelines would be earmarked for transport directly from the hospital / mortuary to the burial ground and the last rites shall be performed by not more than (5) members.

Handling of family and relatives of COVID Suspect and Positive Dead body:

- Each COVID Hospital to keep COVID Medical person dedicated as a single point of contact who should be equipped with all details, support office, assistance and liaison with the final cremation / Burial ground and police and to make record entries in Register of Handing over body in presence of Family and relatives for safe transport and disposal of dead body.
- The Liaison Officer shall issue 5 Disposable masks + 1 small Sanitizer bottle to the authorized family members.
- Hospital shall ensure physical distance maintained by counseling room/ counselor or COVID Help Desk by glass and aluminium partition and security.
- Proper signages in hospital premises in Kannada, Telugu, Urdu and English to guide bereaved family of the deceased.

- Proper IEC material and publicity through press, communities to be given on the need for such safe disposal and sensitizing citizens to cooperate on COVID disposal of Dead procedures.

Burial and Cremation ground preparedness:

- District Collectors / Municipal Commissioners to ensure preparedness of existing Burial / Cremation Grounds as per specifications duly demarcating COVID GRAVEYARD or CREMATION physically demarcated and separate approach, depth of each grave at least 8 feet with inter-spacing between graves of 3 feet.
- To treat the trench with Sodium Hypochlorite (1%) fully before arrival of the body.
- Family / relatives to be permitted duly following social distancing restricted to (5) persons and to be provided masks and sanitizers by District Collector / Urban Local Body.
- Last Rites by relatives / family upto Five persons allowed, to follow by keeping 4 meters distance from body with temporary rope barricading and may follow as per respective religious practices like – Pradakshinas or Namaz-e –Janaazah, etc.,
- The designated COVID body handling and Transport staff shall unzip the plastic standardized body bag and sheet and lower into grave backfill with soil and spray sodium Hypochlorite (1%) on top.
- Post cremation the ashes urn collected from the spot to be given to the family safely using gloves and sanitizers.
- All surfaces inside graveyard to be power sprayed dally with sodium hypochlorite (1%) solution.
- To ensure Autoclave of leftover material in situ or packed and disposed by BMW facility with “ COVID material – for incineration” clearly labeled.
- To keep video and name wise photo coverage for purpose of record.
- Daily the total area of graveyard designated to be sprayed with disinfectant twice.


Director,
Health & Family Welfare Services

TO
The District Health & F W Officer,
_____ District.

Copy sent for information & action to,

1. The District Programme Officers & COVID Nodal Officers.
2. The Divisional Joint Directors, Bangalore/ Mysore/Belagavi / Kalaburagi.
3. The State Nodal Officers.

Copy submitted for kind information to,

1. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Vikasa soudha, Bangalore.
2. The Commissioner, Health & F Welfare Services, A R Circle, Bangalore.
3. The Mission Director – NHM, A R Circle, Bangalore.