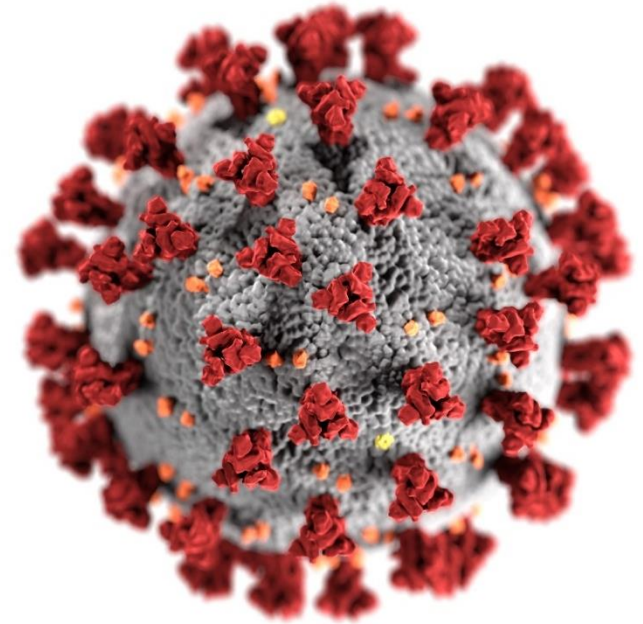


COVID-19

Safe & Dignified Burials in non-US Settings

Engaging Ministries of Health and Partners




cdc.gov/coronavirus

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19

This presentation is intended for use by Ministry of Health and partners working on safe and dignified burials for persons with either confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection.


The presentation is in a train the trainer format with information in the notes section to guide the presenter. Tailor the content of the presentation to your country context before use.





CDC is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners to assist countries to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

CDC routinely provides technical assistance to Ministries of Health and other international and local partners to facilitate the implementation of WHO technical guidance on COVID-19.



The content of this presentation references the recommendations in the WHO guidance published on March 24, 2020 and other relevant documents. The content is subject to revision as new evidence on COVID-19 becomes available.*

Organizations should also consider if further changes are needed to reflect the local context and other cultural considerations.

*Infection Prevention and Control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19 available at https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331538/WHO-COVID-19-IPC_DBMgmt-2020.1-eng.pdf

Intended purpose and audience

PURPOSE: To provide operational guidance on the implementation of safe and dignified burials for persons with either confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection.

AUDIENCE: Ministries of health staff, implementing partners, mortuary staff, and funeral directors in non-U.S. settings.

Key considerations for handling the body



Key considerations

- People may die of COVID-19 in health care facilities, at home, or other locations.
- People who have died from COVID-19 can be buried or cremated.
- To date there is minimal evidence¹ of persons becoming infected due to exposure to the bodies of persons who died from COVID-19.

1. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1752928X20300718>

Key considerations

- Follow infection prevention and control measures before and after handling the body of a person who has died of COVID-19s.
- Ensure availability of hand hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever possible. If unavailable:
 - Work with teams established by the Ministry of Health to handle safe and dignified burials.
 - Explore reusing certain PPE given the limited supply¹.

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/emergency-considerations-ppe.html>

Key considerations

- Ensure the safety and well-being of:
 - All who handle the deceased.
 - People who attend funerals (people who are sick or have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should not attend OR should wear a mask).
- Respect the culture and religious beliefs of the families.
- National and local requirements may dictate the handling and disposition of the remains.

Special considerations in humanitarian settings

- In refugee, or internally displaced persons (IDP) camp settings, always follow the guidance of the camp authorities.
- Advocate for appropriate WASH* equipment and infrastructure for safe burials.

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



National guidance on handling the body



National guidance on handling the body

Include country specific information on this slide

(See notes section below for suggested items. Countries can use 1-2 slides to share their information)

Transfer of the Body



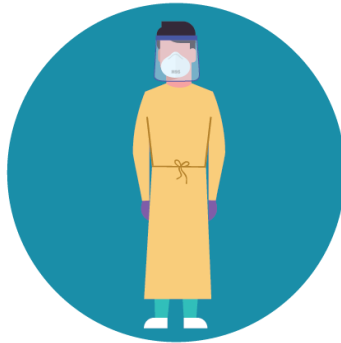
Transfer of the body

- There is no need to disinfect the body before transfer.
- Wrap body (use cloth) in preparation for transfer from health facility, community, or home to the mortuary.
- Ensure any leaking body fluids are contained.
- Body bags are not necessary, although they may be used for other reasons (e.g., excessive body fluid leakage).
- Keep the movement and handling of the body to a minimum.
- No special transport equipment or vehicle is required.

Transfer of the body—Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed



Disposable
gloves



Disposable
gown



Mask

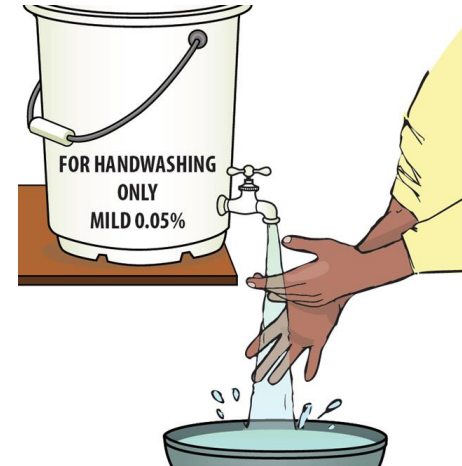
Transfer of the body—hand hygiene

Wash your hands with any of the following:

Soap and water



(or) alcohol-based hand rub (or) 0.05% Chlorine solution

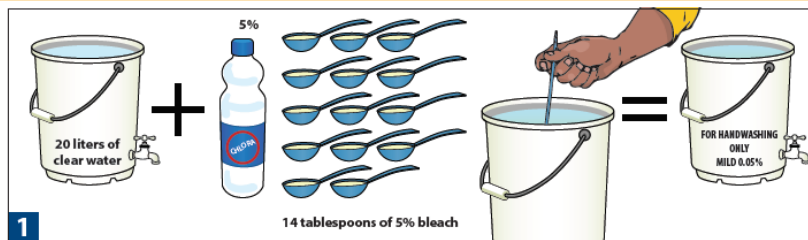


MAKE A HANDWASHING SOLUTION For use in global low-resource settings

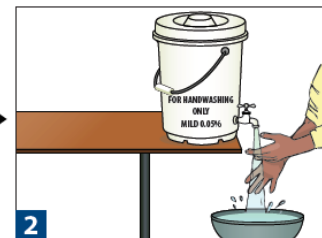
Remember, only use chlorine-based hand washing solutions when soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub are not available.

Making handwashing solution from 5% liquid bleach

Use the **MILD** chlorine water to wash hands.
Make new **MILD** chlorine water every day.



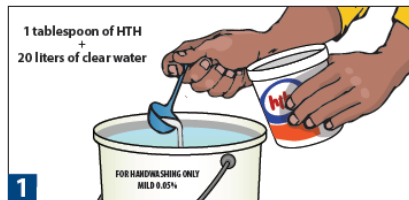
1 Mix 14 tablespoons of 5% bleach into 20 liters of clear water every day. Stir well. Label plastic bucket for handwashing only / **MILD** 0.05%. Do not drink or use for cooking.



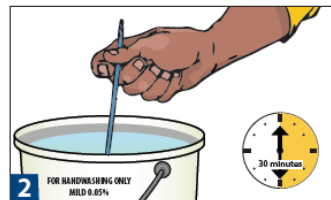
2 Make sure the bucket is covered. Use the **MILD** chlorine water to wash hands.

Making handwashing solution from HTH chlorine powder

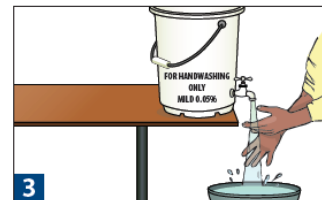
Use the **MILD** chlorine water to wash hands.
Make new **MILD** chlorine water every day.



1 Mix 1 tablespoon of HTH chlorine powder into 20 liters of water every day. Stir well. Label plastic bucket for handwashing only / **MILD** 0.05%. Do not drink or use for cooking.



2 Stir well and wait 30 minutes.



3 Use the **MILD** chlorine water to wash hands.

Instructions for making chlorine-based hand washing solution



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Do NOT drink chlorine water.
Do NOT put chlorine water in mouth or eyes.



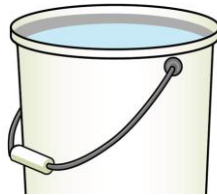
cdc.gov/coronavirus

What to do with the belongings of your deceased loved one



Soak clothes in hot water and soap and use a stick to move them around.

OR



Soak clothes in disinfectant (0.05% chlorine) for 30 minutes.

Then dry clothes in sunlight

What to do with the belongings of your deceased loved one



Step 1. Clean with soap and water

For non
clothing
items



Step 2. Clean with disinfectant
(70% ethanol or 0.1% bleach)

* The gown worn in Step 1 should be waterproof.

Postmortem (if applicable to the setting)



Postmortem

Safety procedures when handling body of someone who dies from suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be consistent with those used for someone who dies from an acute respiratory illness.

Postmortem

- Only 1-3 staff should be involved.
- Perform autopsies in a ventilated room.
- Surfaces and instruments used should be made of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected between postmortems.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and instruments before and immediately after the postmortem.
- Use soap and water followed by a disinfectant.

Cleaning supplies for surfaces and instruments



0.1% Bleach

OR



70% Ethanol

OR



**Hospital Grade
Disinfectant**

+

- Soap and water
- Mop
- Sponges
- Cloths

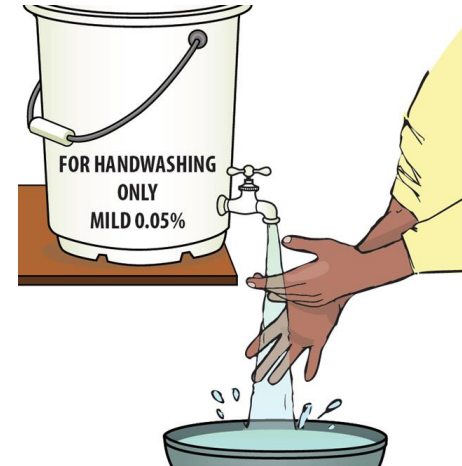
Postmortem—hand hygiene

Wash your hands with any of the following:

Soap and water



(or) alcohol-based hand rub (or) 0.05% Chlorine solution



Postmortem—Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Make sure you have PPE

To protect face from splashing body fluids



Goggles

OR



Face shield



Disposable gloves

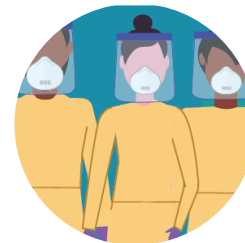


Respirator



Disposable gown

OR



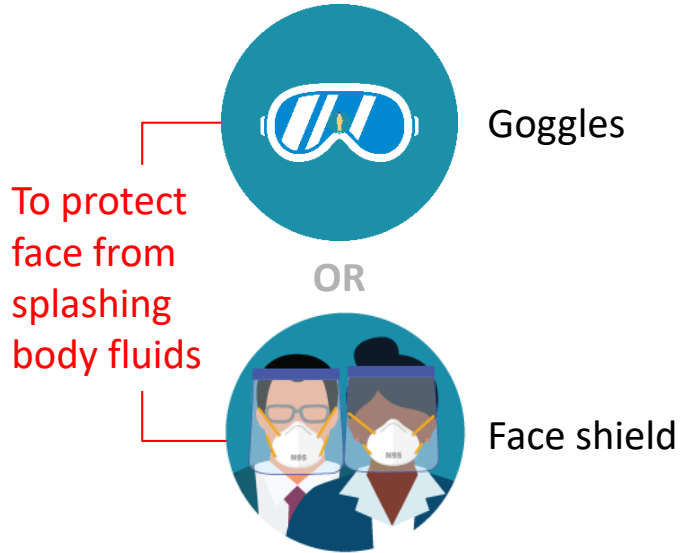
Disposable apron

Preparation

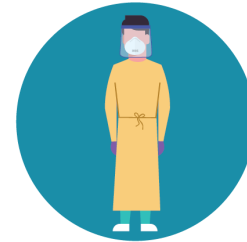


Preparation—Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Make sure you have PPE



Disposable gloves



Disposable gown

Preparation

- Wear gloves for any contact with the body.
- Wear an apron or gown.
- 2 to 3 family members can be involved in preparing the body or they can watch from at least 2 meters away (2 arm lengths).
- Children and persons who are >60 years or immunocompromised should not help prepare the body.

Preparation

- Avoid any preparation that involves splashing of body fluids (embalming is not recommended).
- If families insist on washing the body, staff should work with trained religious leaders or families¹ to reduce their exposure.
- Use face shield or goggles, medical mask, and waterproof gown if preparation involves splashing of body fluids.
- Immediately remove and wash clothing worn while preparing the body (if an apron or gown was not used).

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/tribal/faq-burial-practice.html>

Preparation—hand hygiene

Wash your hands with any of the following:

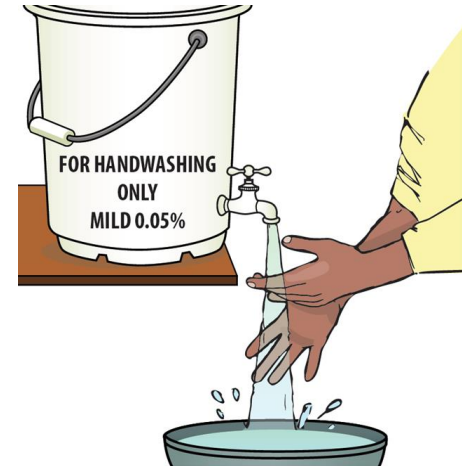
Soap and water



(or) alcohol-based hand rub



(or) 0.05% Chlorine solution



Viewing and burial/cremation



Setting up for the viewing and burial/cremation

Disposable gloves



Soap and water



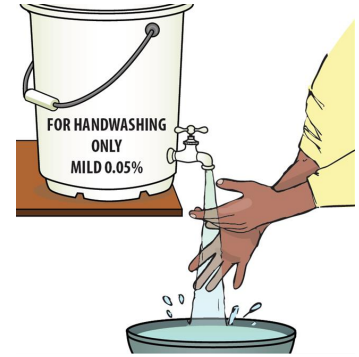
OR

Alcohol-based hand rub



OR

0.05% Chlorine solution



Viewing and burial or cremation

- View the body in accordance with customs.
- Limit viewing and burial to less than 10 people.
- Persons at the viewing and burial should practice physical distancing.
- Persons who are sick or have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should not attend.
- Everyone in attendance should wear a mask.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, weak (0.05%) chlorine solution, or use alcohol-based hand rub.

Burial or cremation

- COVID-19 bodies do not need a separate burial location.
- For burial services, those placing the coffin in the grave should wear gloves.
- Dispose of the gloves according to country guidance.



Taking off and disposing of gloves

1. Grasp glove at palm with opposite gloved hand.
2. Peel off first glove using opposite gloved hand.
3. Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist.
4. Peel glove off, over first glove.
5. Dispose of gloves in general waste bin or plastic bag and then discard.



After the funeral

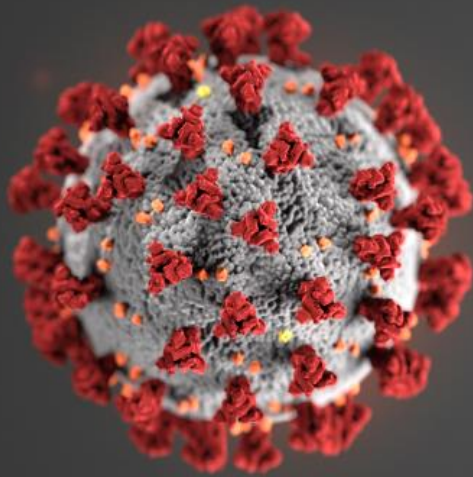
- Postpone any group gatherings to honor your loved one until the end of the epidemic.
- If you are unable to postpone the religious post-burial ceremony, then limit the number of attendees and ensure that attendees adhere to:
 - physical distancing at all times,
 - respiratory etiquette, and
 - hand hygiene.

For additional options for PPE

Review the following document -

"Operational Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment in the Context of Global Supply Shortages for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: non-US Healthcare Settings. "

Accessible at the following link - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/emergency-considerations-ppe.html>



For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

