

# MANAGEMENT OF DEATH IN NURSE LED RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Death of  
person with  
Covid 19

Use the HSE policy on  
Verification and Pronouncement  
of Death

Have Funeral Director Contact  
Details available

Hygienic  
preparation

- Embalming is not recommended
- If a COVID positive patient use IPC COVID guidelines and PPE
- Infection control procedures continued in handling the deceased person after death.
- Hygienic preparation includes washing of the face and hands, closing the mouth and eyes, tidying the hair and in some cases shaving the face.
- Washing or preparing the body is acceptable if those carrying out the task wear long-sleeved gowns, gloves, a surgical mask and eye protection (if there is a risk of splashing) which should then be discarded.

Transporting  
deceased  
body

- If moving the body with the care setting to the mortuary. The remains should be placed in a body bag prior to transportation to the mortuary as this facilitates lifting and further reduces the risk of infection. Await the funeral director if no body bag available in house.
- A face mask or similar should be placed over the mouth of the deceased before lifting the remains into the body bag.
- Those physically handling the body and placing the body into the bag should wear, at a minimum, the following PPE:
  - ▶ Gloves
  - ▶ Long sleeved gown
  - ▶ Surgical facemask
  - ▶ Pay close attention to washing hands after removal of PPE

Mortuary  
Advice

- It would be acceptable to open the body bag for family viewing only.
- The family should be advised not to kiss the deceased and should clean their hands with alcohol hand rub or soap and water after touching the deceased.
- PPE is not required for transfer once the body has been placed in the coffin.
- Refer to the HPSC guidelines for funeral directors available here

HPSC  
Guidelines for  
Funeral  
directors

Bereavement  
Supports

- The Irish Hospice Foundation provides information on bereavement and grieving in exceptional times available at:
- The Employee Assistance and Counselling Service" (EACS) is a national independent service that is available free of charge to all employees in HSE funded hospitals and community health organisations and divisions.

IHF LINK