

# COVID-19 BASIC MEASURES

## FOR HEALTHCARE AND DEATHCARE WORKERS IN THE HANDLING OF THE DEAD

The wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is standard practice for the handling of the deceased and should be carried out in line with standard Health and Safety procedures. Healthcare and deathcare workers should take precautions when handling the remains of individuals who have died from COVID-19.

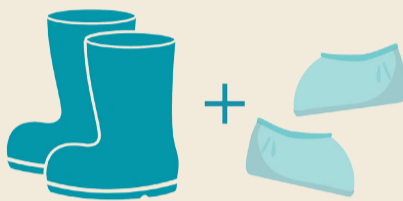
# HOW TO PUT ON PPE CORRECTLY



## USE STANDARD PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR BODY HANDLING

### 1. PUT ON SHOE COVERS OR BOOTS

Standard rubber boots which can be disinfected after use or shoe covers that can be disposed of.



### 2. WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY



### 3. PUT ON GOWN

Use a clean, long-sleeved, fluid-resistant or impermeable gown to protect skin and clothing.



### 4. PUT ON APRON



It must be waterproof.

### 5. PUT ON RESPIRATOR



Use an FFP2, FFP3 or N95 respirator as appropriate.

### 6. PUT ON FACE SHIELD OR GOGGLES



It will help to protect your face, eyes, nose, and mouth from potentially infectious bodily fluids.

### 7. PUT ON GLOVES



Use non-sterile, nitrile gloves when handling potentially infectious materials. If there is a risk of cuts, puncture wounds or other injuries that could break the skin, wear heavy-duty gloves over the nitrile gloves.



Policy and practice must uphold respect towards the deceased individuals and their families, and should not undermine the dignity of the dead.



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## DURING

### USE BODY BAGS



Use one body bag designed for infectious cases. If this is not available, use two standard field body bags.

### LABEL BODY BAGS



Label the body bags containing human remains properly. Record all movements of the body.

### TRANSPORT



Transport the body to the mortuary (or to a disinfection location if no post-mortem examination will occur) as soon as possible.

## AVOID



**Avoid contact with your face and mouth, as well as with food, drinks, and eating and drinking utensils.**



**Do not engage in any other activity during the body handling or preparation process.**



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## REMOVING PPE CORRECTLY



USE THESE STANDARD PROCEDURES TO REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

### 1. SHOE COVERS



Remove shoe covers.  
(if applicable)

### 2. APRON



Remove apron, touching  
only uncontaminated parts.

### 3. GLOVES



Remove gloves together.

### 4. HAND HYGIENE



Clean or disinfect your  
hands.

### 5. GOWN



Another person must  
remove your gown, touching  
only uncontaminated parts.

### 6. FACE SHIELD OR GOGGLES



Remove face shield  
or goggles.

### 7. RESPIRATOR



Remove respirator.

### 8. WASH HANDS



Wash your hands thoroughly  
after body handling and  
prior to eating or drinking.



Please employ standard practices to **disinfect any non-disposable equipment** being used during the handling of the remains.



**Disinfect boots after use.**  
If you used shoe covers, dispose  
of them.



**Dispose used** PPE to ensure it does not come into contact with people, food, drinks, or eating and drinking utensils. Biohazardous waste incineration is best.



**Disinfect any surfaces** that may have come into contact with an infected body.



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# MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGERS



The death management process should be able to continue despite the potentially large number of cases, without jeopardizing the welfare of the staff and of the affected communities.



Safety and well-being of staff is the top priority. Ensure all necessary equipment is provided as well as the required guidance and support throughout the process.



In all situations and in line with standard Health and Safety procedures, wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is standard practice for the handling of the deceased. A risk assessment should be conducted to determine that the recommended level of PPE is adhered to prior to handling COVID-19 infected bodies.

**The following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be used during body handling and preparation process.**

When worn properly, the recommended PPE provides sufficient protection. The highest risk for body handlers may come from working in overcrowded environments alongside infected people.



**GOWN**

Clean, long-sleeved fluid-resistant or impermeable gown to protect skin and clothing.



**GLOVES**

Non-sterile, nitrile gloves when handling potentially infectious materials.



**APRON**

Waterproof.



**BOOTS**

Standard rubber boots that can be disinfected after use, or shoe covers that can be disposed of.



**FACE SHIELD OR GOGGLES**

To protect the face, eyes, nose, and mouth from splashes of potentially infectious bodily fluids.



**RESPIRATOR**

Use an FFP2, FFP3 or N95 respirator as appropriate.



Ensure that everyone has been briefed on health and safety measures, such as those recommended by the health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Every effort should be made to ensure the reliable documentation, identification and traceability of the dead and the certification of death. The bodies of people who have died due to COVID-19 must never be disposed of quickly and carelessly.



Effective communication and coordination among all agencies involved and other service providers is essential.



**The families and loved ones of the deceased should be informed of the person's death, including given relevant information, especially on the status of infection of the deceased.**



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