



Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for body preparation of COVID-19 suspect/confirmed cases by mortuary staff

Purpose: The primary purpose of the Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) is to provide operational guidance for mortuary staffs that will be handling patients that died from COVID-19 infection

Steps

- All dead bodies must be identified and correctly labeled with identity labels and category tags.
- Dead body which is found soiled with blood or body fluids should be placed in a disposable plastic bag instead of linen.
- Dead bodies should be stored in cold chambers maintained at approximately 4°C.
- Since each and every dead body brought to autopsy is a potential source of infection, at all times, pathologists and other support staff should observe standard precautions in the performance of any autopsy

Environmental precautions

- The mortuary must be kept clean and properly ventilated at all times. Lighting must be adequate. Surfaces and instruments should be made of materials which could be easily disinfected and maintained.
- Storage compartments for dead bodies should be easily accessible for both regular cleaning and maintenance.
- Smoking, drinking and eating are forbidden in autopsy room, body storage and viewing areas.
- All used linen should be handled with standard precautions. Used linen should be handled as little as possible with minimum agitation to prevent possible contamination of the person handling the linen and prevent the generation of potentially contaminated lint aerosols in the areas. Laundry bag should be securely

tied up. Staff should follow the established guidelines of their organizations on handling of soiled linen.

- Items classified as clinical waste must be handled and disposed of properly according to the legal requirements.
- Environmental surfaces, instruments and transport trolleys should be properly decontaminated.

SAMPLE