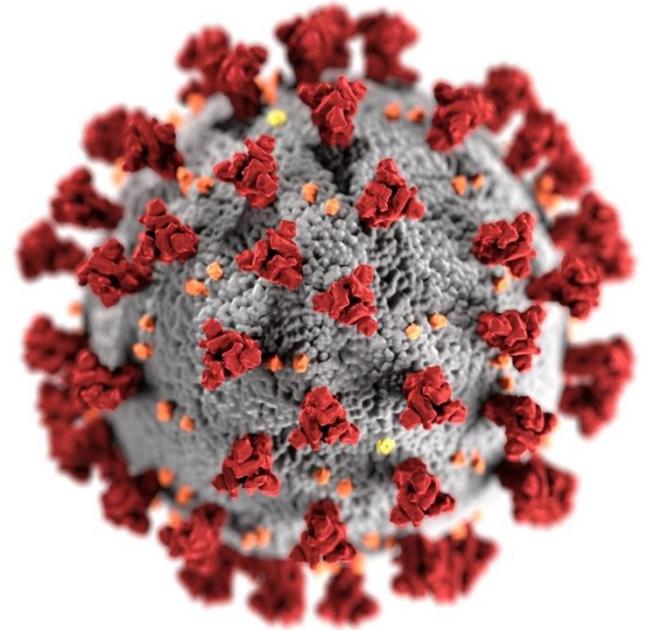


COVID-19

Safe & Dignified Burials in non-US Settings

Engaging the Community

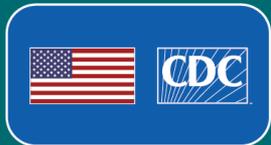


cdc.gov/coronavirus

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 should be converted to a flip chart for use in the community. Adapt the content of the presentation to your country context before use



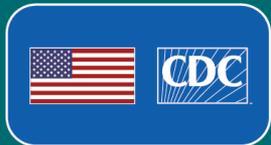
Intended purpose and audience

PURPOSE: To provide guidance on how to have a safe and dignified burial for persons with either confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection.

AUDIENCE: Partners who will share information with community members.



General guidance for handling the body

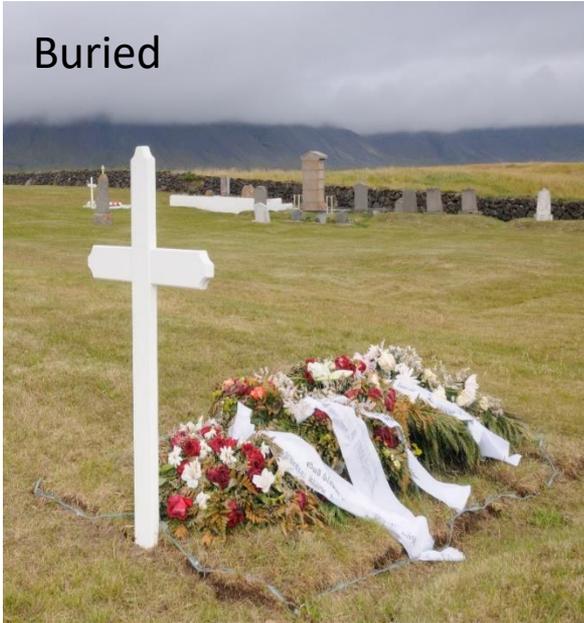


COVID-19 can affect anyone, anywhere, and at any time.



When a person with COVID-19 dies, they can be

Buried



Cremated



If someone you know dies of COVID-19

- **OPTION 1:** You and your family can plan the burial by following the steps outlined in these slides.
- **OPTION 2:** Reach out to religious leaders trained to conduct safe burials for those who die of COVID-19.
- **OPTION 3:** Reach out to a team of individuals set up by the government to support families of those who die of COVID-19.



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



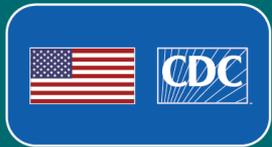
Did you know that

From what we know now, there is little evidence that you can get COVID-19 from being exposed to the body of someone who died from COVID-19¹.



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

Preparing the body



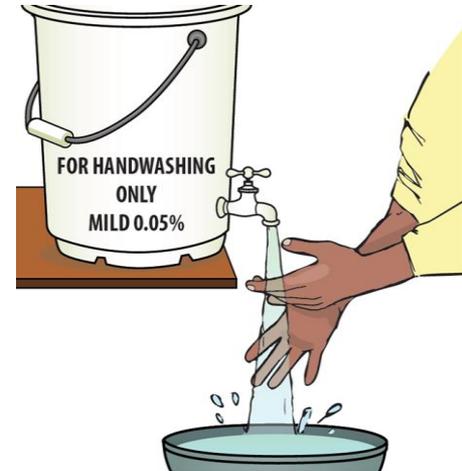
Staying safe while preparing the body at home

- Wash your hands thoroughly after preparing the body with:

Soap and water



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

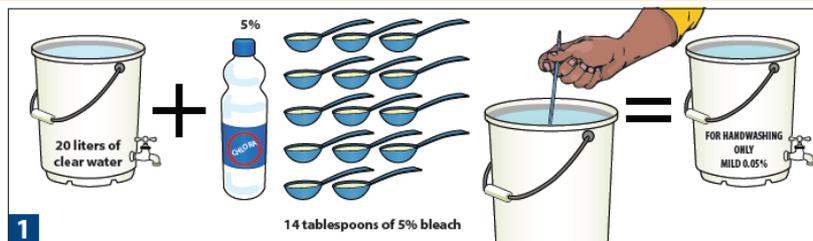


MAKE A HANDWASHING SOLUTION For use in global low-resource settings

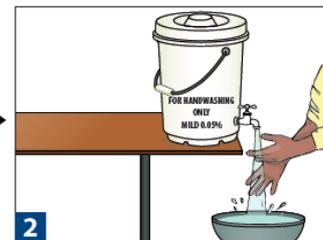
Remember, only use chlorine-based hand washing solutions when soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub are not available.

Making handwashing solution from 5% liquid bleach

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



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.



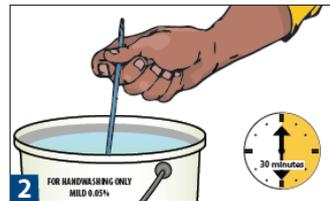
Make sure the bucket is covered. Use the **MILD** chlorine water to wash hands.

Making handwashing solution from HTH chlorine powder

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



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.



Stir well and wait 30 minutes.



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

Instructions for making chlorine-based hand washing solution



CS31481-F Apr 14, 2020 12:57 PM

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



cdc.gov/coronavirus



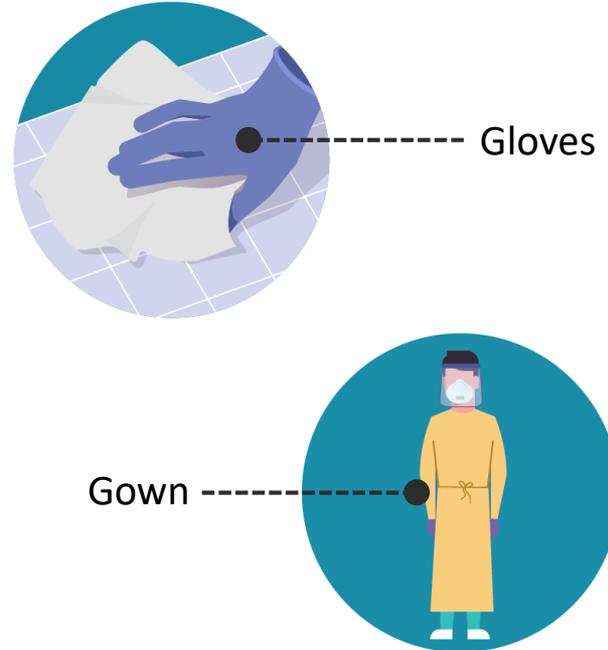
Washing of the body is not encouraged, however if washing of the body is required

- **OPTION 1:** Wear waterproof gown, goggles/face shield and mask to protect from splashing of any body fluids.
- **OPTION 2:** Reach out to religious leaders trained to conduct safe burials for those who die of COVID-19.
- **OPTION 3:** Reach out to a team of individuals set up by the government to support families of those who die of COVID -19.



Preparation of the body at home

- No more than 2 people should be involved in body preparation.
- Wear gloves and a gown.
- If a gown is not available, wear clothes that cover your arms and legs.
- When finished with preparing the body, immediately wash your clothes with water and soap.



Preparation of the body at home

- Others may observe the preparation from a distance of at least 2 meters (two arms' lengths) away without touching the body.
- Washing the body is not encouraged.
- Do not kiss the body while preparing it.
- Children and persons who are > 60 years or people who have a weakened immune system should not prepare the body.

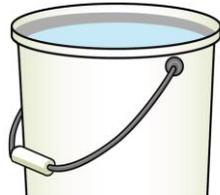


What to do with the clothing of the deceased

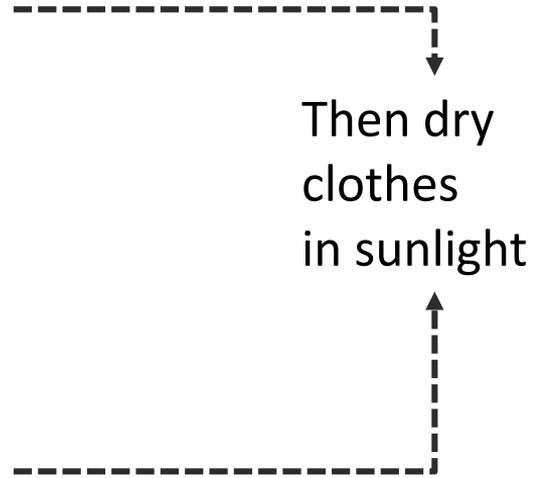


Soak clothes in hot water and soap and use a stick to move them around.

OR



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



What to do with non-clothing items of the deceased



Step 1. Clean with soap and water.

For non
clothing
items



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

Viewing and burial or cremation of the body



Setting up the body for the viewing and burial/cremation



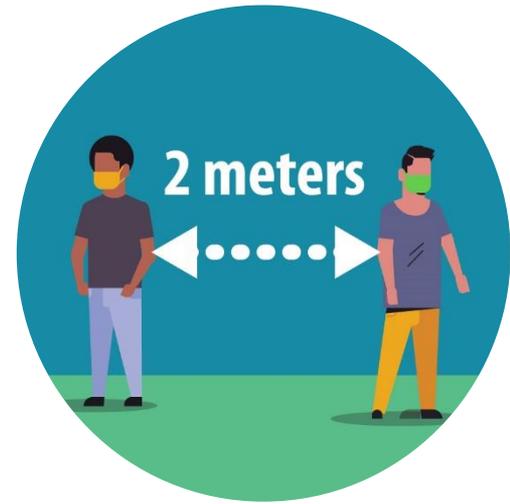
Wear gloves



Ensure availability of a hand hygiene station

Viewing and burial or cremation of the body

- Limit viewing of the body to less than 10 people at a time.
- Those attending the viewing and the burial should practice physical distancing.
- Those who are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms should not attend the funeral.
- Everyone in attendance should wear a face covering.



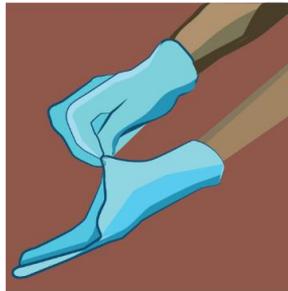
Burial or cremation of the body

- Bodies of persons who die of COVID-19 do not need a separate burial location.
- No special vehicle is required to transport the body to the burial site.
- For burials, those placing the coffin in the grave should wear gloves.
- Dispose of the gloves according to country guidance and wash your hands.



Steps for safe removal and disposal of gloves

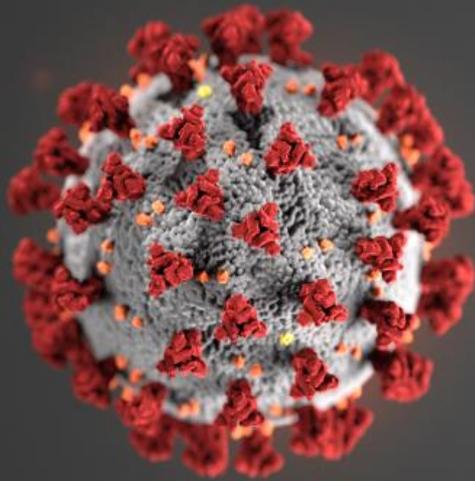
1. Grasp glove at palm with opposite gloved hand.
2. Peel off first glove using opposite gloved hand.
3. Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist
4. Peel glove off, over first glove.
5. Dispose of gloves in general waste bin or plastic bag and then discard.



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 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.

