

**Government of Punjab
Department of Health and Family Welfare
(Health-IV Branch)**

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
2. All the Civil Surgeons in the State of Punjab

Memo No. 14/7/2020-4HB4/1057

Dated, Chandigarh, the 10.04.2020

Subject : COVID : 19 – Disposal of unclaimed dead bodies of COVID 19 patients.

In continuation to earlier issued guidelines vide letter no 14/7/2020-4h4/spl.1 dated 4.4.2020 of Department of Health and Family welfare & letter No IDSP/NHM/Pb/20/2123-96 dated 5.4.2020 of Director Health Services.

1. In the exigency of death of a COVID 19 patient, the concerned hospital will prepare the dead body by following the protocol of disposal of dead body as per the guidelines of the Government of India (copy attached). A separate area should be earmarked in every isolation centre for this activity.

2. (a) In Case of Government Medical Colleges, the doctor on duty will inform the forensic doctor who will call mortuary workers on duty in the hospital to receive the wrapped and disinfected dead body and will shift it on a disinfected shifting trolley for loading on the closed vehicle and shift to the mortuary. Mortuary workers to be given safety equipment as per protocol. The hospital will inform the district administration about such death along with all details.

(b) In Case of Isolation centres other than Medical Colleges, the hospital authorities will move the sealed disinfected dead body to the mortuary of the hospital. In case mortuary is not part of the Isolation Facility, the mortuary will be identified by the Health Authorities and the dead body will be moved to that mortuary.

3. The medical facility as soon as possible will inform the Deputy Commissioner about any such death. This information must be given to both the Deputy Commissioner of the district where such a facility is located and the Deputy Commissioner of the district to which the person belonged (if the two are different).

4. Dead body from the mortuary will be shifted to cremation ground where the last rites of the body are to be done in a vehicle which shall be arranged by concerned district administration where the last rites are to be performed. The local Municipal Committee/Panchayat will make arrangements for cremation.

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5. Depending on following situations, further necessary action shall be taken by local District administration:

- (i) When relatives are there and are ready for doing the last rites the district administration should provide them all the help required. Dead body disposal protocol has to be followed.
- (ii) When relatives are there but not willing to carry out the last rites district administration should carry out the last rites in the presence of the relatives as per protocol.
- (iii) When body remains unclaimed for 48 hours after the information is provided to the relatives about the death the body should be declared unclaimed under Epidemic Control Act 1897 and the district administration should carry out the last rites as per religious belief known to the district administration as per protocol.

6. All the expenses on transportation of the dead body, required manpower and expenses of such a funeral will be a valid charge on National Disaster Mitigate Fund (NDMF).


Secretary Health & Family Welfare

Dated : 10/04.2020

Endst No: 14/7/2020-4HB4/ 1058

Copy is forwarded to the following for information & necessary action :-

- 1) Secretary to Chief Secretary to Govt. of Punjab.
- 2) All the Special Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Administrative Secretary & Secretary to Govt. of Punjab for information.
- 3) Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Medical Education and Research.
- 4) Sh. Rahul Tiwari, IAS, Secretary to Govt of Punjab, Department of Employment Generation and Training-cum-Incharge of State COVID-19 Control Room (SCCR).
- 5) Director Health Services, Punjab
- 6) VC, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
- 7) Principal, Govt. Medical College Amritsar and Patiala.
- 8) Principal, Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot
- 9) All Medical Superintendent and SMOs in the State of Punjab


Secretary Health & Family Welfare

CC:

1. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Under Secretary Health(G) for uploading orders on website.