

**GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND  
HOME DEPARTMENT  
NAGALAND STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
NAGALAND : KOHIMA**

NO.NSDMA-ER-COVID-19/301/2020, /116

Dated Kohima, the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**SOP FOR DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES OF COVID-19**

Every designated COVID Hospital will follow the guidelines on dead body management issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI dated 15/03/2020(copy enclosed) and in addition the following instructions should also be adhered to:

1. The hospital authorities will designate a team for management of dead body due to COVID-19 and the team should consist of at least three people and adequate number of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits should be made available for the team.
2. The PPE kit should comprise N95 masks, surgical caps, protective goggles, water-resistant aprons, surgical gloves, knee-high shoes with thigh-level plastic covers as per the specifications.
3. The COVID-19 hospitals should keep ready sufficient number of water proof body bags. Each bag should contain a zip and should be leak-proof.
4. The following steps in the isolation room/area; removing all tubes, drains and catheter, disinfecting with 1% sodium hypochlorite any punctured holes or wounds on the body, placing the dead body in leak proof plastic body bag and decontaminating it with 1% hypochlorite and thereafter in a coffin and disinfecting that also, and finally sealing it;as in para 5 of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI should be strictly adhered to.
5. The person who is handling the body should possess a proper PPE kit, as he/she has to wipe the body and keep it inside the bag and thereafter in a coffin and sealing it before it is shifted to the mortuary or handed over to the family members for carrying out the last rites.
6. A maximum of four persons (the relatives and family members) shall be allowed to view the body at the time of removal from the isolation area or room and these people should not come in direct contact with doctors, nurses and paramedical staff of the hospital and they should maintain the standard precaution.
7. The body will be either handed over to the relatives or taken to mortuary.
8. Separate single room should be allocated that can operate as a makeshift mortuary. This room should be sprayed with disinfectants regularly to ensure it's free from infection.
9. In case of the body of the dead due to COVID-19 is not claimed by the family, the disposal of the body for cremation/burial will carried out by the NDRF/SDRF/Police after proper disinfecting is done of the body and it is put in a body bag and thereafter in a coffin after following all the procedures as mentioned above.
10. Each COVID-19 hospital must appoint a dedicated liaison officer for the family members of a deceased due to COVID-19, who will act as the single point of contact.



The officer should also liaison with the NDRF/SDRF/Police for the deceased's last rites.

11. All used/ soiled linen should be handled with standard precautions, put in biohazard bag and the outer surface of the bag disinfected with hypochlorite solution.
12. Used equipment should be autoclaved or decontaminated with disinfectant solutions in accordance with established infection prevention control practices.
13. All medical waste must be handled and disposed of in accordance with biomedical waste management rules.
14. The health staff who handled the body will remove personal protective equipment and will perform hand hygiene.
15. The mortuary must be kept clean. Environmental surfaces, instruments and transport trolleys should be properly disinfected with 1% Hypochlorite solution.
16. After removing the body, the chamber door, handles and floor should be cleaned with sodium hypochlorite 1% solution.
17. All surfaces of the isolation area should be wiped with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution, allowed a contact time of 30 minutes, and then allowed to air dry.

### **Transportation**

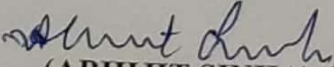
1. The body, secured in a body bag which is disinfected and placed in a sealed coffin which is again disinfected, poses no additional risk to the staff transporting the dead body.
2. The personnel handling the body may follow standard precautions (surgical mask, gloves).
3. The vehicle, after the transfer of the body to cremation/ burial site, will be decontaminated with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite.

### **At the crematorium/ Burial Ground**

1. At the Crematorium/ burial Ground the body should not be taken out from the sealed coffin and it should be buried/ cremated with the coffin.
2. Religious rituals such as reading from religious scripts, sprinkling holy water and any other last rites that does not require touching of the coffin can be allowed.
3. The funeral/ burial staff and family members should perform hand hygiene after cremation/ burial.
4. The ash does not pose any risk after cremation and can be collected to perform the last rites.
5. The gathering at the crematorium/ burial ground should not be more than 10 people and all social distancing measures should be followed at the funeral.

The above SOP should also be read with letter No. **DHFW/COVID-19/2019-20**, dated 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 issued by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Nagaland(copy enclosed)

Enclosed: As stated

  
(ABHIJIT SINHA) IAS  
Principal Secretary, Home