

ARIZONA COVID-19 RESPONSE

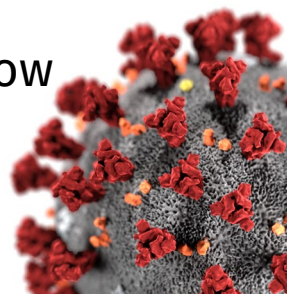
What Funeral Home Personnel Should Know

- Decedents with COVID-19 can be embalmed and buried or cremated, but check for any additional state and local requirements that may dictate handling and disposition of individuals who have died of an infectious disease.
- Use the same precautions for embalming as any other decedent with a communicable disease.
- Refrigeration of human remains for long periods of time is not recommended.

For Staff Recommendations

- Funeral Homes should follow routine infection prevention when coming into contact with a decedent with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.
- Staff should practice use of [standard precautions](#) and appropriate PPE.
 - Heavy-duty gloves should be worn over disposable nitrile gloves if there is a risk of cuts, puncture wounds, or other injuries that break the skin.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Funeral homes should follow routine infection prevention and control precautions when coming in contact with a decedent with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning:
 - Use a bleach-and-water solution (0.1% solution; 1:50 dilution) or disinfectant with a label that says “EPA approved” for killing bacteria and viruses. Always follow directions on product labels.

FUNERAL HOMES



For Transportation and Release of Human Remains

- Ensure a Human Remains Release Form is completed and uploaded to a electronic death record.
- Refer to R9-19-311: [Transporting Human Remains into the State for Final Disposition](#).
- COVID-19 should be treated like any other communicable disease. If a person tested positive, a communicable disease letter is needed to accompany a body for ship-out accommodations.

Who to contact if you have questions?

Please contact your local health department for more guidance and information.

azhealth.gov/localhealth

Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 and Funerals \(CDC\)](#)
- [What Healthcare Professionals Should Know \(CDC\)](#)
- [COVID-19 \(CDC\)](#)
- [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(EPA\)](#)

Funeral Homes

