

COVID-19 Update

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020

To: Everyone at HHS

From: Dr. Dominik Mertz, Medical Director, IPAC
Anita Lamond, Director, Corporate Services

Subject: **Policy – Patient Remains and Visitation**

We have developed a policy on the procedure for the management and care of a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 following death.

What's new

Staff should first refer to the [Ontario Ministry of Health Expedited Death Response \(EDR\) in Hospitals](#) for the care and management of patients following death, including the specific steps listed in this protocol that are HHS specific. Secondly, staff should then refer to this policy [CLINICAL - Care of the Body Following Death During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Once these guidelines have been followed, refer to the most appropriate protocol related to the Care and Management of Patients Following Death for all other steps.

PPE requirements

Staff should apply the precautions in place prior to death and use the appropriate PPE based on risk assessment and to treat all human remains as potentially infectious.

Family visitation

- Family/parents/caregivers are permitted to view the body on the unit prior to preparation of the body but only one at a time.
- Family/parent/caregiver must wear appropriate PPE (i.e., usual droplet/contact isolation gown for visitors, procedure/ surgical mask, and gloves).

Thank you for handling these difficult circumstances with professionalism and compassion.

Dominik and Anita