

## Ministry of Health

### Infection control directorate



## INFECTION CONTROL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CRITICAL CARE AND HANDLING DEAD BODIES FOR PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED 2019-NCOV INFECTION

### Critical care

- all respiratory equipment must be protected with a high efficiency filter (such as BS EN 13328-1). This filter must be disposed of after use
- disposable respiratory equipment should be used wherever possible. Re-usable equipment must, as a minimum, be decontaminated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- a closed suctioning system must be used
- ventilator circuits should not be broken unless necessary
- ventilators must be placed on standby when carrying out bagging
- PPE must be worn
- water humidification should be avoided, and a heat and moisture exchanger should be used

### Handling dead bodies

- the act of moving a recently deceased patient onto a hospital trolley for transportation to the mortuary might be sufficient to expel small amounts of air from the lungs and thereby present a minor risk
- a body bag should be used for transferring the body and those handling the body at this point should use full PPE.
- the outer surface of the body bag should be decontaminated immediately before the body bag leaves the anteroom area. This may require at least 2

individuals wearing such protective clothing, in order to manage this process

- the trolley carrying the body must be disinfected prior to leaving the anteroom
- prior to leaving the anteroom, the staff members must remove their protective clothing
- once in the hospital mortuary, it would be acceptable to open the body bag for family viewing only (mortuary attendant to wear full PPE)
- washing or preparing the body is acceptable if those carrying out the task wear PPE. Mortuary staff and funeral directors must be advised of the biohazard risk. Embalming is not recommended
- if a post mortem is required safe working techniques (for example manual rather than power tools) should be used and full PPE worn, in the event that power tools are used. High security post mortem suites are available if needed and can be discussed with the PHE incident team
- after use, empty body bags should be disposed of as category B waste