

COVID 19 – CARE AFTER DEATH test

Below is a summary of the changes to current practice for all patients with confirmed or suspected COVID.

Care of the deceased

- An appropriately trained professional must complete the verification of death using PPE and maintaining infection control measures.
- Full PPE should be used when caring for the deceased. This is due to the ongoing risk of infectious transmission via contact although the risk is usually lower than for living patients.
- A body bag is not required for the transfer of the deceased to the mortuary and standard procedures should be followed.
- Please note there is no facility now for viewing of the deceased.
- Any questions please call the mortuary directly; 4332

Patient belongings

- Families at present will not be able to collect belongings until current visiting restrictions have been lifted.
- Patient belongings should be placed in bags as current practice.
- These bags should then be placed inside a large clear bag and this bag sealed before being taken to the bereavement office. Clear bags are available from the bereavement office.
- *? How long should patient belongings remain in a bag before being opened by family – this has been asked nationally and awaiting a response.*

Bereavement Care (Applies for all deaths within the hospital, COVID confirmed, suspected or not)

- Do not ask families to visit the hospital, please ask them to call the bereavement team: 01935 384746.
- Prepare families for the fact that the time for the production of the medical certificate may take longer than usual and do not give an estimate of the time this may take. Ensure they liaise with the bereavement team directly.
- The Chaplaincy team are planning on contacting by phone all bereaved families to offer support whilst the current situation continues.