



COVID-19

Pohnpei COVID-19 Task Force



Funeral Advisory

All existing standards as enforced by the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency and the Pohnpei Department of Health and Social Services are to be followed strictly.

The risk of COVID-19 infection when attending funerals

- There is currently no known risk associated with being in the same room at a funeral or visitation service with the body of someone who died of COVID-19.
- If your loved one has died from COVID-19 or experienced symptoms before they died, you are strongly advised not to adhere to any rituals or traditional practices that may bring you into close contact with them. If close contact is unavoidable, you should always wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

Infection risk when in contact with remains of a person who died of COVID-19

- COVID-19 is a new disease and the experts (WHO/CDC) are still learning more about how it spreads. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to mainly spread from close contact (i.e. within about 6 feet) with a person who is currently infected with COVID-19. The virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory infections spread.
- These droplets can land in the mouths, eyes or noses of people who are nearby or possibly inhaled into the lungs. This type of spread is not a concern after death.
- It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus droplets on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
- People should consider not touching the body of someone who died of COVID-19. Older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.
- As much as possible, avoid acts such as kissing, washing, and shrouding of corpses during, and after the body has been prepared. If washing the body or shrouding are important religious or cultural practices, families are encouraged to work with their community cultural and religious leaders and DHSS on how to reduce their exposure as much as possible.
- At a minimum, people conducting these activities should wear disposable gloves. If splashing of fluids is expected, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be required (such as disposable gown, face-shield or goggles, and facemask).
- Cleaning should be conducted in accordance with manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. After removal of PPE, perform hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 40-60 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly soiled.

This Advisory is subject to change when new information becomes available.

Know the symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms of coronavirus are similar to flu or colds and may include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ➤ Fever (High Temperature) | ➤ Headache | ➤ Runny nose |
| ➤ Persistent Dry Cough | ➤ Breathing Difficulty | ➤ A General Feeling of Being Unwell |
| ➤ Shortness of Breath | ➤ Sore Throat | |

If you have any of these symptoms, remain in home isolation and immediately call the helpline 320-3109.

