



COVID-19

Pohnpei COVID-19 Task Force



Advisory on Disposition of Human Remains

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.

Disposition of Human Remains Advisory for Pohnpei and Pohnpeians Abroad:

- The public is hereby advised that human remains are allowed for shipment as cargo to Pohnpei in accordance with Pohnpei COVID-19 Task Force guidelines and Legislative Resolution 40-20, provided that an application for importation of human remains is submitted and approved by the Director of Health and Social Services prior to shipment.
- For any foreign death related to a quarantinable communicable disease such as COVID-19, the family of the deceased is advised to consider the option of cremating the remains.
- For disposition of remains in Pohnpei, the family of the deceased is strongly advised to adhere strictly to CDC and WHO guidelines, including physical distancing, and the most updated Pohnpei State Government Advisory on Public Events and Gatherings.
- Should there be any deaths associated with COVID-19 in Pohnpei, remains may not be released to families and/or buried immediately. Families of the deceased must allow the human remains to be stored until such time that infection and spread have subsided and upon advice by the Pohnpei State Hospital or relevant health team.
- Interment of human remains due to COVID-19 should be conducted under the supervision or guidance of the Pohnpei State Department of Health and Social Services.

Funeral Risks:

- 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.
- Close physical contact with human remains is not advised as it increases the risk of COVID-19 infection.
- The risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission is greater at public gatherings for cultural funerals.
- Standard infection control precautions should be observed.
- Funerals or bereavement services should be closed casket OR remains should be placed in caskets and sealed by health experts donned in appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Mourners who are elderly, unwell, infirm, have pre-existing health conditions or are part of a household with possible COVID-19 infection shall not attend any funeral services.
- Strict adherence to CDC/WHO COVID-19 preventive guidelines should always be followed.
- Funeral guidelines may be developed in addition to CDC/WHO guidelines, as necessary.
- This advisory may be updated without notice, as necessary.

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

For more information call 320-3109,

visit the official Pohnpei State Government Facebook Page: Pohnpei State Enginkehlap or email:

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