

Covid-19 Positive or Person Under Investigation (PUI) – Care of the Deceased

If a patient is a PUI or lab confirmed to have COVID-19 and dies while in the hospital, follow Legacy Health policy 900.4367 Postmortem Care.

According to the CDC, spread of COVID-19, from a living person, happens with close contact (i.e., within about 6 feet) via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. **This route of transmission is not a concern when handling human remains or performing postmortem procedures.**

Postmortem activities should be conducted with a focus on avoiding aerosol generating procedures and ensuring that if aerosol generation is likely (e.g., when using an oscillating saw) that appropriate engineering controls and personal protective equipment (PPE) are used.

Wear PPE for contact and droplet precautions while preparing the patient for transport to the morgue.

Wipe down the body bag with standard hospital disinfecting wipe (Oxivir) before transport.

There is no need to double-bag a body.

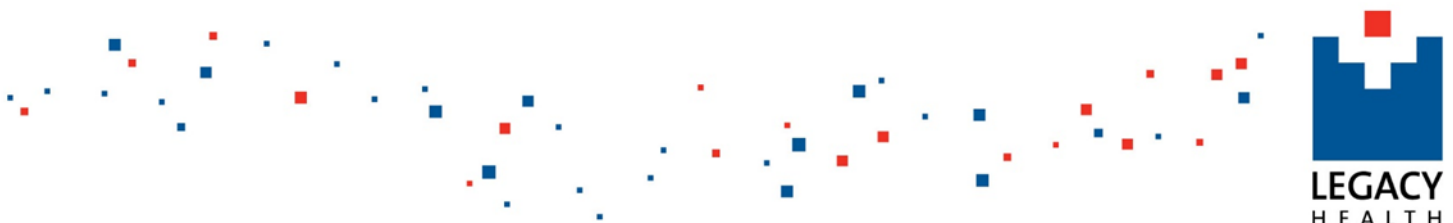
Transport to Morgue:

- Unit follows site specific procedure to transport body to morgue
- Follow Legacy Health Policy 900.4367 Postmortem Care

PPE for Security Staff in Morgue:

- Face shield
- Isolation gown
- Nitrile gloves

Ensure that all PPE is worn for PUI or COVID positive patients. Face shields should be wiped down and reused.



Notification:

Nursing Supervisor to contact the Public Health department in the county of residence to notify them of the patient's death.

County Public Health Department	Phone Number
Multnomah County Public Health	503-988-3406
Washington County Public Health	503-846-3594
Marion County Public Health	503-588-5348
Clackamas County Public Health	503-742-5300
Clark County Public Health (WA)	564-397-8182

[LH Policy 900.4367 Postmortem Care](#)

[CDC Interim Guidance for Collection and Submission of Postmortem Specimens from Deceased Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\) for COVID-19](#)

