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Protocol to be followed in case of deaths of Covid 19 Positive/ Suspected cases

Subject: Protocol to be followed in case of Deaths of suspected and confirmed Covid - 19 positive cases.

Ref:-

1. GO No. DHS/PS/29/2020-21 dated: 17-04-2020, regarding operational guidelines for disposal of suspected/confirmed cases of Covid-19 dead bodies
2. Circular No. Novel Corona Virus-Covid-19/17B/2019-20. Dated: 28-05-2020.
3. GO No. HFWS/PS/63/2020-21 dated: 12- 05-2020
1, 2, 3 issued by Director, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare Services, Government of Karnataka.
4. GO No.HFW 231 ACS 2020, dated: 25-06-2020, issued by The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Health & Family Welfare Department.

Given the increased numbers of Covid 19 deaths being reported daily, and since it has come to the notice of the authorities that there is a delay in handing over the dead bodies to the relatives of victims or for cremation/ burial, the following order is being issued to all hospitals/ health care institutions for implementation of the same with immediate effect.

The protocols are classified as follows for the following scenarios:

- A. Protocol in case of death of Covid 19 Positive patients admitted in Hospitals
- B. Protocol in case of death of suspected Covid 19 patients admitted in Hospitals
- C. Protocol in case of death of Covid 19 Positive patients at home
- D. Protocol in case of death of suspected Covid 19 patients at home

Protocol to be followed in case of deaths of Covid 19 Positive/ Suspected cases

A. Protocol in case of death of Covid 19 Positive patients admitted in Hospitals

1. **Cause of death certificate (Form 4)** should be issued by the treating hospital mentioning Covid 19 positive status and other existing comorbidities.
2. Aadhar card copy or any proof of identity of the deceased should be collected by the hospital authorities.
3. Covid positive report copy or any other documentary proof of the positive status of the patient should be collected by the hospital authorities.
4. Details of the deceased should be updated in the online patient management portal prescribed, mentioning **any of the following available details** - the SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ contact number that was given at the time of testing in case of Institutions/Hospitals who have access to the portal.
5. If any PHC/ CHC/ Taluk Hospitals/ District Hospital/ BBMP Hospital/ any other hospital / Nursing Home/ Private Clinic does not have access to the BBMP portal, such Institutions are required to send a copy of the cause of death certificate (form No. 4) with **any of the following available details** - the SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ contact number that was given at the time of testing, entered on it, by email to **2020covid.hospital@gmail.com**.
6. The body should be packed as per the Standard Protocol issued by the Government (Ref-1)
7. The body should be transferred to the crematorium/ Burial ground by the BBMP Ambulance/ BBMP Hearse van of the concerned BBMP zone, by personnel with proper PPE kits.
8. Personal Protective Equipment should be provided by the zonal BBMP officials to the crematorium staff, mandatorily.

B. Protocol for Suspect Covid 19 case Deaths of patients admitted in Hospitals

1. **Provisional cause of death certificate (form No.4)** should be issued by the treating hospital immediately.
2. It needs to be mentioned on the top of the certificate (form No.4) as Provisional Cause of Death Certificate. Cause of death should be stated as 'Death due to natural causes cannot be ruled out. However the exact cause of natural death could not be commented due to existing circumstances (COVID 19 PANDEMIC)'. If the final report after testing comes as positive, the provisional certificate should be collected back by the hospital and destroyed and a **fresh certificate (form No.4)** should be issued mentioning the Covid 19 positive status and other existing comorbidities in the new certificate. If the report comes as negative, a new certificate may be issued with the Cause of death should be stated as 'Death due to natural causes cannot be ruled out. However the exact cause of natural death could not be commented due to existing circumstances (COVID 19 PANDEMIC)'.
3. Aadhar card copy or any proof of identity of the deceased should be collected by the hospital authorities.



4. Throat swab of the deceased for Covid 19 testing should be collected immediately by the concerned hospital/ or by the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC if swabbing is not available at the hospital.
5. Details of the deceased should be updated in the online patient management portal prescribed, mentioning **any of the following available details** - the SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ contact number that was given at the time of testing in case of Institutions/Hospitals who have access to the portal.
6. If any PHC/ CHC/ Taluk Hospitals/ District Hospital/ BBMP Hospital/ any other hospital / Nursing Home/ Private Clinic does not have access to the BBMP portal, such Institutions are required to send a copy of the cause of death certificate (form No. 4) with **any of the following available details** - the SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ contact number that was given at the time of testing, entered on it, by email to **2020covid.hospital@gmail.com**.
7. Body should be packed as per the Standard Protocol issued by the Government (Ref-1)
8. The body should be handed over to the relatives, with instructions to transfer to the crematorium/ Burial ground immediately, under intimation to zonal BBMP officials via email (as per GO issued). There is no need to wait for the results of the swab test.
9. Personal Protective Equipment should be provided by the zonal BBMP officials to the crematorium staff, compulsorily.
10. In case of the swab report coming as positive, the jurisdictional BBMP authorities are directed to initiate further action as per protocol (continuation of point B2 above and necessary action for primary contacts).

C. Protocol for Covid 19 Positive case deaths at home

1. Photographs of the body of the deceased should be taken by the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC to rule out any injuries/ unnatural death and preserved for reference purpose. If unnatural death is suspected, they should consult the nearest medical colleges for further advice and needful.
2. If death is natural, **Cause of death certificate (Form 4A)** should be issued by the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC mentioning Covid 19 positive status and other existing comorbidities.
3. Aadhar card copy or any proof of identity of the deceased should be collected.
4. Covid 19 positive report copy of the deceased person should be collected.
5. The Institutions should send ~~a copy~~ a copy of the cause of death certificate (form No. 4A) with **any of the following available details** - the SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ contact number that was given at the time of testing, entered on it, by email to **2020covid.hospital@gmail.com**.
6. The body should be packed by the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC, packing being done according to the Standard Protocol issued by the Government (Ref-1)
7. The body should be transferred to the crematorium/ Burial ground by the BBMP Ambulance/ BBMP Hearse van of the concerned BBMP zone, by personnel with proper PPE kits.
8. Personal Protective Equipment should be provided by the zonal BBMP officials to the crematorium staff, compulsorily.

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D. Protocol for suspected Covid 19 deaths at home

1. Photographs of the body of the deceased should be taken the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC to rule out any injuries/ unnatural death and preserved for reference purpose. If unnatural death is suspected, they should consult the nearest medical colleges for further advice and needful.
2. If death is natural, it needs to be mentioned on the top of the certificate (form No.4A) as Provisional Cause of Death Certificate. Cause of death should be stated as 'Death due to natural causes cannot be ruled out. However the exact cause of natural death could not be commented due to existing circumstances (COVID 19 PANDEMIC)'. If the final report after testing comes as positive, the provisional certificate should be collected back by the hospital and destroyed and a **fresh certificate (form No.4A)** should be issued mentioning the Covid 19 positive status and other existing comorbidities in the new certificate. If the report comes as negative, a new certificate may be issued with the Cause of death should be stated as 'Death due to natural causes cannot be ruled out. However the exact cause of natural death could not be commented due to existing circumstances (COVID 19 PANDEMIC)'.
3. Throat swab of the deceased for Covid 19 testing should be collected immediately by the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC.
4. Aadhar card copy or any proof of identity of the deceased should be collected.
5. The Institutions should send a to send a copy of the cause of death certificate (form No. 4A) with **any of the following available details** - the SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ contact number that was given at the time of testing, entered on it, by email to **2020covid.hospital@gmail.com**.
6. The body should be packed by the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC, packing being done according to the Standard Protocol issued by the Government (Ref-1)
7. The body should be handed over to the relatives, with instructions to transfer to the crematorium/ Burial ground immediately, under intimation to zonal BBMP officials via email (as per GO issued). There is no need to wait for the results of the swab test.
8. Personal Protective Equipment should be provided by the zonal BBMP officials to the crematorium staff, compulsorily.
9. In case of the swab report coming as positive, the jurisdictional BBMP authorities are directed to initiate further action as per protocol (continuation of point B2 above and necessary action for primary contacts).

PLEASE NOTE:

1. All hospitals should maintain a register for all Covid related deaths occurring either in the hospital or at home, with the details of name, age, SRF No/ ICMR No/ BU No./ telephone number that was given at the time of testing and Aadhar card copy/ any id proof and date and time of death. All documents pertaining to death and treatment should be maintained for death audits to be provided to the BBMP when required.
2. All crematoriums/ burial grounds in Bengaluru city should accept dead bodies of Covid 19 victims compulsorily irrespective of zone in which the patient resided. The crematoriums/ burial grounds in Bengaluru city are hereby directed to function from 9 AM till 8 PM everyday till further orders.



3. Crematorium/ Burial Ground staff should take the same precautions and follow standard protocols for cremation/ burial for both Covid 19 positive and Covid 19 suspect dead bodies. As mentioned in the protocols above, Personal Protective Equipment should be provided by the zonal BBMP officials to the crematorium staff, compulsorily.
4. In case of inter-district or inter-state patient deaths either at hospital or home for positive or suspect cases, the hospitals/ or the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC should issue the death certificate in the prescribed formats mentioned above and after the necessary formalities of packing and disinfection of the body, hand over the body for cremation. In case of inter-district or inter-state transportation of the body, the hospitals/ or the medical officer of the jurisdictional BBMP UPHC should additionally provide a letter with the patient details that states 'Death has occurred due to Covid 19/ Suspected death due to Covid 19. The necessary disinfection procedure has been performed and packing of the body has been done in accordance with prescribed guidelines, to ensure reduced risk of infection. Cause of Death certificate has been issued. Authorities are requested to provide all necessary help to facilitate the transport of the body to hometown for cremation/ burial'.
5. For all non covid 19 natural deaths, routine/ existing procedures for cause of death certification should be followed.

The above mentioned protocol shall be adhered to strictly, to facilitate timely release of the dead body and to ensure proper procedure of cremation/ burial of the dead.



B.H. Anil Kumar IAS

Commissioner,

Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

Copy to the following for information and necessary action:

1. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.
2. ACS, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka.
3. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore.
4. Principal Secretary, Medical Education.
5. The Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Department.
6. All Special Commissioners, BBMP.
7. Deputy Commissioners, Bangalore Urban & Rural.
8. Director, Health Family Services, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - disseminate to All Hospitals & Health Officers concerned for immediate action and compliance.
9. Director, Medical Education Dept, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - disseminate to All Hospitals & Health Officers concerned for immediate action and compliance.
10. Zonal Joint Commissioners, BBMP.
11. All District Health Officers, Bangalore Urban & Rural.
12. All District Surgeons, Bangalore Urban & Rural.
13. CHO (Public Health & Clinical) - disseminate to All Hospitals & Health Officers concerned for immediate action and compliance.
14. Ambulance and Hearse Van Coordination Team, BBMP
15. 108 Coordination Team, Bangalore Urban & Rural.
16. PRO, BBMP to inform all Standing Committee Chairpersons, BBMP and Elected Representatives.
17. Zonal Officers, BBMP Covid - 19 Coordination Committee
18. Cluster heads- Govt. Medical Colleges, Govt. Hospitals, Private Medical Colleges, Private hospitals, CCC.
19. Office copy.