

COVID-19: Safe Handling of Personal Property Post Death Family Instructions

During a pandemic all deaths are considered suspect COVID-19 therefore safe handling practices of deceased person's property apply to all deceased persons.

The property of your deceased family member does not need to be disposed of. However, their property should be **handled with gloves** and cleaned using the procedures below.

Clothing and other textiles belonging to the deceased should be handled with gloves (do not shake out), machine washed with warm or hot water using laundry detergent. Dry in a hot mechanical drier.

Personal items and hard surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected. Cleaning and disinfecting are important to reduce the spread of infection.

- Cleaning refers to the removal of visible dirt, grime and impurities. Cleaning does not kill germs but helps remove them from the surface.
- Disinfecting refers to using chemical to kill germs on surfaces. This is most effective after surfaces have been cleaned.
 - To disinfect use a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a virucidal claim. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to disinfect effectively. Alternatively, you can prepare a bleach water solution with 20 ml of unscented household bleach per 980 ml of water. Ensure surfaces remain wet for 1 minute.
- For personal items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (eg: paper photographs, greeting cards) keep in bag provided by the facility for 10 days. The items should be safe to remove at that time.
- **For More Information Call 811**