



ARKANSAS FUNERAL
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Prep Room Hygiene - COVID-19

For all workers, regardless of specific exposure risks, it is always a good practice to:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.
- Always wash hands that are visibly soiled.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

The potential exposure to the virus during autopsies is very high, therefore, if deemed necessary and appropriate, strict adherence to basic safety procedures should always be used for any autopsy on human remains. If performing autopsies on human remains known or suspected to be contaminated with COVID-19, use typical autopsy PPE, such as:

- Double surgical gloves interposed with a layer of cut-proof synthetic mesh gloves
- Scrub suit worn under an impermeable gown or apron
- Goggles or face shield
- Shoe covers
- Surgical cap

Use respiratory protection that includes NIOSH-certified disposable N95 or better respirators. Powered, air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) with HEPA filters may provide increased worker comfort during extended procedures.

Sterilise all instruments and surfaces thoroughly before and after use. It is believed that the virus can live for up to 4 days on non-porous surfaces such as stainless steel.

Cover the mouth and nose of the body during transportation or movement to prevent any particulates becoming airborne.