

Ebola virus can be transmitted through handling infected human remains, skin breaches, or splashes of blood or other body fluids (e.g. urine, saliva, feces) to eyes, nose, or mouth.

- Only trained personnel wearing PPE should touch or move any Ebola-infected remains.
- **Avoid** autopsies. Conduct an autopsy only after consultation with public health authorities.
- Minimize handling and transport of Ebola-infected human remains.
- Coordinate all transport with public health authorities.

### Personal protective equipment for Ebola-infected human remains

- **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Proper PPE consists of surgical scrub suit and cap, impervious gown with full sleeves, eye protection (e.g., face shield, goggles), face mask, shoe covers, and double surgical gloves. Additional PPE (leg coverings, apron) might be required in some situations (e.g., drainage of blood, vomit, feces, or other body fluid).
- **Proper use of PPE:** Put on PPE **BEFORE** touching remains, remove it immediately after avoiding self-contamination, discard appropriately, and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water. See: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html>.

### Postmortem preparation for Ebola-infected human remains at site of death

- **Preparation:** Leave IV lines or endotracheal tubes in place. Do not wash or clean the body. Wrap the body in a plastic shroud. Do not contaminate the outside of the shroud. Change any PPE item heavily contaminated with blood or body fluids. Immediately place the wrapped body in a leak-proof plastic bag not less than 150  $\mu$ m thick. Close the zipper. Put the bagged body in a second leak-proof plastic bag not less than 150  $\mu$ m thick. Close the second zipper.
- **Surface decontamination:** With full PPE remove visible contamination on outer bag with an EPA-registered disinfectant which kills a wide range of viruses. Reapply disinfectant to the entire bag surface and let air dry. After removing the bagged body, have the room cleaned and disinfected. See: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html>
- **Transporting human remains:** PPE is not required for individuals driving or riding in a vehicle carrying the disinfected bagged body unless they will be handling the remains.

### Mortuary Care

- Use full PPE listed above when handling the bagged remains.
- Do not open the body bags. Do not remove remains from the body bag. Do not embalm.
- Place the disinfected bagged body directly into a hermetically sealed casket.
- If fluids leak from the bagged body, thoroughly clean and disinfect as described above.

### Disposition of Ebola-infected human remains

- Remains should be cremated or buried promptly in a hermetically sealed casket.
- No PPE is needed when handling cremated remains or a hermetically sealed closed casket.
- Coordinate interstate transport with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC: 770-488-7100). Air shipping as dangerous goods (DOT: 49 Code of Federal Regulations 173.196).
- Coordinate transportation of remains outside the country with relevant foreign authorities.

See: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-safe-handling-human-remains-ebola-patients-us-hospitals-mortuaries.html>