



# How are COVID-19 burials different from Ebola burials?

	COVID-19	Ebola
<b>Is the body infectious?</b>	<p>Based on what we know now, it is believed there is little risk of getting COVID-19 from a dead body. The virus is thought to spread mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.</li> <li>• When respiratory droplets from an infected person land in the mouth or nose of people who are nearby or possibly inhaled into the lungs</li> </ul>	<p>Yes. The body is extremely infectious. People who touch the body or come in contact with blood and body fluids (urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) of a person who died from Ebola are at higher risk of getting infected.</p>
<b>Is a team required for the burial?</b>	<p>A team is not required. However, an individual can request support from trained religious leaders and government staff.</p>	<p>Yes. A team is required to conduct safe and dignified burials. The body is highly infectious, and the use of a trained burial team prevents the spread of the disease among family and in the community.</p>
<b>Can the family prepare the body for the burial?</b>	<p>Yes. The family can prepare the body. The family would need gloves, a gown, water and soap or diluted chlorine solution. For washing the body – waterproof gown, mask or N-95 respirator, and goggles or face shield are recommended to protect from splashing of any body fluids.</p>	<p>No. The trained burial team is required to pick up and prepare the body of a person who died of Ebola.</p>
<b>How do you handle the belongings of the deceased?</b>	<p>Personal belongings of the dead person can be washed with soap and water OR disinfectant and then air dried in direct sunlight. Gloves should be used to handle the belongings.</p>	<p>Personal belongings of the dead person should be disinfected if appropriate, burned, or buried.</p>
<b>Can the family select the burial site?</b>	<p>Yes. The family can select and transport the body to the final resting place. No special transport is required.</p>	<p>No. The trained burial team is required to pick up and transport the body to the burial site. A designated transport vehicle is used for the body.</p>
<b>Can the family have a viewing of the body?</b>	<p>Yes. Family members can view the body but must stand at least 1 meter away from other persons viewing the body. They should not touch the body without taking precautions.</p>	<p>No. Once the trained burial team picks up the body, the next time the family can see the body is at the burial site, watching from a safe distance as the burial team completes their work.</p>
<b>What PPE and hand hygiene is needed for handling of the body?</b>	<p>Gloves, gown, water and soap or diluted chlorine solution.</p> <p>For autopsy or washing the body – Waterproof gown, mask or N-95 respirator, and goggles or face shield are recommended to protect from splashing of any body fluids.</p> <p>The reuse of protective equipment* if properly disinfected may be necessary given the shortage of supplies.</p>	<p>Full PPE should be worn by burial team members (rubber boots, gown, apron, mask, goggles or face shield, a hood, latex or nitrile inner gloves, and thick rubber outer gloves). Reusable PPE should be properly disinfected after use and all disposable PPE should be burned.</p>

\*Operational Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment in the Context of Global Supply Shortages for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: non-US Healthcare Settings accessible at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/emergency-considerations-ppe.html>