



Ohio Funeral Directors Association

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Recommendations of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association to Facilitate the Transfer of Deceased Patients from Nursing Homes, Long Term Care, and Hospice Facilities

It is vital that we work together to collaborate knowledge in order to help expedite the transfer of decedents into our care, so that families may proceed with making plans for their loved ones.

To help expedite the response by funeral directors, taking the following steps would be extremely beneficial:

1. If respiratory infection is the cause of death, please advise the funeral practitioner at the time of initial death notification. HIPAA Regulations allow for the release of information to the public, law enforcement, funeral directors and other governmental agencies. *
2. Funeral homes, like all health care providers and first responders are experiencing a shortage of PPE equipment. Therefore, only appropriate PPE for the circumstances will be used.
3. Please have any necessary documentation available at the transfer area to help the funeral practitioner avoid going into more than one area of your facility.
4. Please limit the amount of personnel escorting the funeral staff and decedent from the point of removal to the funeral vehicle.
5. If possible, facilities should identify an area for transferring the patient that minimizes exposure for the other patients, facility staff and funeral home staff.

We should all be familiar with the Ohio Department of Health guidelines concerning health care workers, nursing homes, and other essential services. The above is not meant to contradict any of those guidelines but serve as practical suggestions as we work together to serve the deceased and our communities during this difficult time.

On behalf of the members of OFDA, thank you for all that you and your staff do to provide care and comfort, while protecting all involved.

*Reference US 45 CFR 164.512 (g)(2)