



GUIDANCE ON MANAGEMENT OF THE REMAINS OF DECEASED UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL IN A PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Guidance is intended to supplement the
and ST/AI/2011/9,

management of human remains of United
Nations personnel within the current pandemic environment, including death and management of remains
attributed to a non-infectious cause.

Division for Special Activities
Department of Operations Support

JUNE 2020



I& PURPOSE

This guidance applies to the management of human remains of United Nations personnel who have died during a pandemic situation, whether suspected or confirmed to be due to the pandemic-related infection or because of other circumstances.

It should be read and applied in conjunction with the



IV& REFERENCES



ensuring that families receive medical certificates of death, burial permits, autopsies; reports and other relevant documentation to resolve financial and estate issues

Based on the findings of the assessment on options and capacity available locally, arrangements with local providers should be made and agreements put in place as early as possible if the facilities and services of these providers are available and deemed suitable, including sufficient capacity in case of higher demand

In situations where local capacity is unavailable or insufficient to respond to potential higher demand, an assessment should be made as early as possible regarding the need to secure temporary refrigeration equipment or other supplies/chemicals as required, including food, bags, coffins, and hermetically sealed caskets

VI ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDLING OF REMAINS

In all cases of death of United Nations personnel, where possible, a diagnostic test for pandemic infection, including COVID-19, should be carried out on the remains as soon as possible unless the individual was tested positive prior to the death, or an appropriate sample taken and preserved until testing is possible

A presence of infection should be taken into account in determining the cause of death, or the handling of human remains, the presence of pandemic infection, including COVID-19, or other infectious disease should be assumed until proven otherwise

In cases of death at a more remote location, repatriation arrangements are to be made, including United Nations food, evacuation and transport modalities where required, to relocate the remains as soon as possible to a more central duty station where proper handling, potential storage, and international transportation or disposal of remains (burial or cremation) are more likely to be possible

Where the deceased was known or suspected to have been infected with COVID-19, human remains can be handled safely with a523 -13.92 (5dn [(a) 0.589586(n) 090251 (0.957164 (l) 4. ())



After remains are removed, cleaning and disinfection procedures should be followed in the same way as for a room that had a live / + 11 or similar; infectious patient



* Further Information

For further information or guidance on handling of the remains of United Nations personnel, please contact the United Nations Department of Operational Support & Services Mission for Special Activities (UNSA) at cpsu@un.org