Precautions for Caregivers after the Death of a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in the Home



These instructions are in addition to those provided by the healthcare team, to prepare you for the time of death. Follow this advice to protect yourself and others in the home, as well as those in your community.

Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required After Death?

 Yes. Use the same precautions and PPE that were used in care before death, until the body is moved from the home.

What Should You Expect when Funeral Attendants Arrive?

Funeral home attendants will wear PPE, and will keep physically distanced from others.

Are There Any Other Precautions to Consider?

- All caregivers and household members must self-isolate for 14 days after the death.
- Continue to self-monitor. Use the online COVID self-assessment tool (https://bc.thrive.health/) and/or call 8.1.1 if you are concerned you may have COVID-19.

How Should I Clean and Disinfect the Home After Death?

- Once the body is moved from the home, clean and disinfect the same way you did during care of the person.
- For more information on cleaning and disinfection and disposal of waste, please go to BCCDC's Cleaning and disinfecting website: http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/cleaning-and-disinfecting

What Should I Do with Unused Medications?

- Call your pharmacy to ask if they are accepting unused medications for disposal.
 - If they are accepting unused medications, put all unused medication-filled syringes in the sharps container, fasten it securely, and put it in a clear plastic bag. Put all other unused medications in a separate clear plastic bag. Take both plastic bags to pharmacy.
 - If they are not accepting unused medications, keep them at home until the pharmacy is accepting medication returns again.
- Keep unused medications out of sight and out of reach of others, especially children, teens, and pets. For most medications, especially opioids, this means locking them in a safe place.
- Do not throw medications into the garbage.

What Should I Do with Borrowed or Rented Medical Equipment?

Contact the supplier for information.

For more information, contact the Community Health Services team or call the after-hours number given to you.