COVID-19 Positive Patient Belongings

Family Taking Belongings Home at time of Death or Patient Recovered and Returning Home

Dispose of clothing with permission of patient or family. If reluctant to dispose of clothing, double bag clothing separately from belongings. Wipe outside of clothing bag. Inform patient or family to handle clothing per CDC guidelines as follows (attach CDC guidelines to bag):

Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from an ill person and then discard (gloves) after each use. If using reusable gloves, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other household purposes. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.

If possible, do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people’s items.

Wipe down all remaining belongings with a disinfectant wipe and double bag. Wipe outside of belongings bag with a disinfectant wipe.

Patient or family can take belongings.

Family not present at time of Death

Dispose of clothing with permission of patient or family. If reluctant to dispose of clothing, double bag clothing separately from belongings. Wipe outside of clothing bag. Inform patient or family to handle clothing per CDC guidelines as follows (attach CDC guideline to bag):

Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from an ill person and then discard (gloves) after each use. If using reusable gloves, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other household purposes. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.

If possible, do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people’s items.

Wipe down all remaining belongings with a disinfectant wipe and double bag. Wipe outside of belongings bag with a disinfectant wipe. Fill out belongings inventory form and secure to belongings bag. Secure belongings bag to wrapped patient.

For UWMC-MT & HMC, Autopsy & After Death Services will communicate directly with Funeral Homes regarding patient and their belongings.


Approved by Dr. Lynch 03.25.20