

Guidelines for handling human cadavers with Communicable Diseases

Infection and degree of risk	Bagging required ¹	Viewing safe ¹	Embalming safe ¹
Low risk			
Chicken pox/shingles	No	Yes	Yes
Influenza types	No	Yes	Yes
Legionellosis	No	Yes	Yes
Leprosy	No	Yes	Yes
Measles	No	Yes	Yes
Meningitis (except meningococcal)	No	Yes	Yes
Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus	No	Yes	Yes
Mumps	No	Yes	Yes
Psittacosis	No	Yes	Yes
Rubella	No	Yes	Yes
Tetanus	No	Yes	Yes
Whooping cough	No	Yes	Yes
Medium risk			
Cholera	No	Yes	Yes
Food poisoning	No	Yes	Yes
Diphtheria	Adv	Yes	Yes ³
Hepatitis A	No	Yes	Yes
HIV/AIDS	Adv ²	Yes	No
Leptospirosis	No	Yes	Yes
Malaria	No	Yes	Yes
Meningococcal disease	Adv	Yes	Yes ³
Scarlet fever	Adv	Yes	Yes ³
Tuberculosis	Adv	Yes	Yes
Typhoid fever	Adv	Yes	Yes
Viral haemorrhagic fevers (not transmissible between people)	Adv	Yes	Yes ³
Infection and degree of risk	Bagging required ¹	Viewing safe ¹	Embalming safe ¹
High risk			
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies	Yes	Yes ⁴	No
Hepatitis B, C	Yes	Yes	No
Invasive Group A streptococcal disease	Yes	Yes	No
Viral haemorrhagic fevers (transmissible between people)	Yes	Yes	No

¹ Definitions Bagging: placing body in an impervious plastic body bag
 Viewing: bereaved seeing, touching, and spending time with the body; if the deceased has been bagged the bag must be left unopened and intact
 Embalming: injecting chemical preservatives into the body to slow the process of decay

² Adv = advisable

³ requires particular care during embalming

⁴ unless autopsy has been performed