

## Hopi Tribal Resources

Although there is no known risk of contracting the virus directly from those who have passed, family members who are caring for deceased loved one should wear disposable gloves, masks and (if available) eye shields, while in direct contact with the deceased. It is also very important to frequently wash one's hands after being in physical contact with the deceased and to clean any surfaces or objects used during the preparation or ceremonies.

The Hopi Tribe Department of Social Services has burial assistance for those whose loved ones passed as positive or suspected COVID-19 as a Burial Assistance Program for eligible, enrolled, indigent Hopi Tribal Members.

## Who to Contact

Social Services Program for more information (8am - 5 pm) or the Hopi Law Enforcement Services after hours.

### **Social Services:**

(928) 734-3392

### **Hopi Law Enforcement:**

(928) 734-7340 or 7341

### **Hopi Incident Command Line**

(business hours) - (928) 734-3661

### **Incident Command Line (after hours)**

(928) 205-7295



# Burial Guidance during the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic



The Hopi Tribe  
Department of Health &  
Human Services

## Burial Guidance

During the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic, the cultural sensitivity of death is acknowledged. It is important to understand that changes are mandatory in handling the bodies of our loved ones to prevent the transmission of the Coronavirus COVID-19. These guidelines are to assist Hopi and Tewa people with burial arrangements during this pandemic.

## Positive Coronavirus COVID-19 Related Death

- If someone passes at home, immediately call the Incident Command at (928) 734-6188 or after hours (928) 205-7295.
- Officials who respond and or remove the body will provide the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and a body bag to immediate family members to minimize contamination and the potential spread of the virus. The home will require proper disinfection.
- For Tribal members who contract and die from COVID-19 follow the CDC guidance on transportation, handling and burial of the deceased, including the use of appropriate PPE and products to disinfect contaminated surfaces.

- Before making any burial decisions or preparations, communicate first with the Hopi Social Services to learn of burial funds available specifically for the loved one who dies from COVID-19
- The family is required to designate one person to represent them with their decisions, this eliminates confusion and any misunderstanding.
- Medical facilities will not release the body to family members but will directly release the body to a Mortuary or a Funeral Home upon consultation with the family.
- Once the deceased is confirmed positive or is suspected of COVID-19, the mortuary will not allow any viewing of the deceased and physical contact with COVID-19 body.
- The mortuary will work with the family for the loved one to be delivered directly to the grave site.

## All other Deaths (non-Coronavirus COVID-19)

- Communicate with Hopi Social Services before contacting a Mortuary if assistance is needed for burial. Failure to do so may result in the family having to pay all costs.

- Communicate with Health Care Facilities/Hospitals and Mortuaries/Funeral Homes to learn of policies and protocol for release and/or holding of the body.
- Communicate and plan burial arrangements with family using COVID-19 preventive methods.
- Seek services of a Mortuary / Funeral Home to transport the body directly to the burial site.
- Should be handled as a COVID-19 death unless confirmed by medical staff.

**Prevention** - Consider all ways COVID-19 can spread. Burying a loved one during this time takes careful planning.

- Emphasize the importance of maintaining a 6-foot physical distance between persons.
- Gather only 10 people or less in one place at one time.
- Encourage frequent handwashing for 20 seconds with warm water and soap.
- Use gloves or masks if contact with a non-COVID-19 related corpse is necessary and change gloves between tasks to avoid contamination.