

# COVID-19: Safe Handling of Personal Property Post Death Family Instructions

**During a pandemic all deaths are considered suspect COVID-19 therefore safe handling practices of deceased person's property apply to all deceased persons.**

The property of your deceased family member does not need to be disposed of. However, their property should be **handled with gloves** and cleaned using the procedures below.

**Clothing and other textiles** belonging to the deceased should be handled with gloves (do not shake out), machine washed with warm or hot water using laundry detergent. Dry in a hot mechanical drier.

**Personal items and hard surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected.** Cleaning and disinfecting are important to reduce the spread of infection.

- Cleaning refers to the removal of visible dirt, grime and impurities. Cleaning does not kill germs but helps remove them from the surface.
- Disinfecting refers to using chemical to kill germs on surfaces. This is most effective after surfaces have been cleaned.
  - To disinfect use a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a virucidal claim. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to disinfect effectively. Alternatively, you can prepare a bleach water solution with 20 ml of unscented household bleach per 980 ml of water. Ensure surfaces remain wet for 1 minute.
- For personal items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (eg: paper photographs, greeting cards) keep in bag provided by the facility for 10 days. The items should be safe to remove at that time.
- **For More Information Call 811**