

Dear Funeral Directors, Embalmers, and Funeral Home Owners:

We are receiving many calls asking how you should handle COVID-19 (coronavirus) positive decedents and how you should conduct funerals during this time. While the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is not a public health body, we are happy to direct you to a few resources that you and the families you serve may find helpful.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has some funeral-specific questions and answers on its FAQ page. To access that page, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html> and scroll down until you see the funeral-related questions.

It is our understanding that embalmers should follow the same precautions that the CDC recommends for persons performing autopsies. We have linked that guidance on our website, but you may also read it at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html>.

You may find the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's COVID-19 (coronavirus) information on its website, <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>.

Please remember that this is a rapidly changing issue, and that you should continue to stay abreast of current directives from state, federal, and local agencies; also, please remember that you should always treat each decedent as if that person may have had an infectious disease when handling remains, including utilizing the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).

While our staff is working remotely at this time, we are still available to you. The best way to contact us during this time is to email contact.funeral@lfr.sc.gov, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you call and do not get an answer, please leave a message, and we will call you back.

Amy Holleman
Board Administrator