



Pandemic Related Deaths in Institutional Settings

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HHS Pandemic Plan Healthcare Preparedness Mortuary Issues

- Assess current capacity for refrigeration of deceased persons.
- Discuss mass fatality plans with local and state health officials and medical examiners.
- Work with local health officials and medical examiners to identify temporary mortuary sites.
- Determine the scope and volume of supplies (e.g. body bags) needed to handle an increased number of deceased persons.



Assess Current Capacity for Refrigeration of Deceased Persons

- In-house considerations and capacity.
 - Lack of adequate facilities
 - Security
- Temporary Holding
- Memorandum of Understanding with vendors for refrigerated trucks.
- Coordination with Coroner, Public Health and EMA officials.



Discuss Mass Fatality Plans with Local and State Health Officials and Medical Examiners

- Planning activities on the local and state levels.
- Communications of those plans to healthcare providers.



Work with Local Health Officials and Medical Examiners to Identify Temporary Morgue Sites

- Consideration of deceased persons from Long-Term Care facilities in addition to hospitals.
- Established Morgue sites that are communicated to healthcare providers.
- Consider transportation issues and establish responsible parties for transportation.
- Incorporate local plans into facility plans.



Determine the Scope and Volume of Supplies Needed to Handle an Increased Number of Deceased Persons

- Consider lack of funds for healthcare facilities to provide mass numbers of body bags for the “what if”.
- Inability of facilities to stockpile supplies.
- Incorporation of supply acquisition into facility plans.



Opportunities

- Greatest opportunities exist with communication between agencies of Mass Fatality Plans.
- Education is needed with those who will handle the deceased (PPE, Standard Precautions, disposal of patient belongings and waste)
- Continued education and training for community leaders, emergency responders and other healthcare providers.