

Handling Your Loved One's Belongings

When a loved one has died in hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic

Take steps to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. You **do not** need to throw out your loved one's belongings.

1. Before and after handling their belongings: Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Clean and disinfect their belongings as soon as possible. Follow the steps below.

For clothing, blankets and other fabrics:

1. Take them from the bag and place them directly into the washing machine.
Do not shake them out when removing them from the bag.
2. Machine wash in warm or hot water with laundry detergent.
3. Machine dry on hot.

For items made of plastic, glass and other hard surfaces:

1. Wash the item using soap and warm water. Remove any visible dirt.
2. Disinfect the item using a cleaning product that that says it kills viruses. Follow the instructions on the label.

OR

Mix 20 mL of unscented household bleach in 980 mL of water. Wipe down the item and leave the surface wet for 1 minute.

For electronic devices:

1. Turn off the device and unplug any cords.
2. Spray a lint-free cloth with 70% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and wipe the device.
Do not spray alcohol directly on the device or let moisture into any openings.

OR

Use a disinfecting wipe that is safe for use on electronics.

Do not let moisture into any openings.

For items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected, such as photographs and greeting cards:

1. Keep the items in the bag provided for 5 days.

Adapted from "[Safe Handling of Personal Property Post Death – Family Instructions](#)" with permission from Alberta Health Services, version date: April 28, 2020. Approved by UHN Infection Prevention and Control