Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Procedure for Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory

With so many news outlets and companies offering their take and professional, educated opinion on what to do, here is a summary of things that we at Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory can do to protect ourselves and the families that we serve, along with a bit of information from the CDC on the virus itself.

How it Spreads

- According to the Center of Disease Control
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
    - It is possible to spread the virus without knowing that someone has the virus and therefore, we should continue to take our standard precautions for everyone.
  - Through touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, and possibly eyes; however, this is not thought to be the main way this virus spreads.

Precautions to Take

- Notify management that we have received a death call with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Continue to use universal precautions that we already have in place regarding proper PPE.
  - Gloves (nonsterile, nitrile). In the care center, these are PURPLE gloves.
    - Should there be any cuts, open wounds or puncture wounds, wear a pair of heavy duty (BLUE high tensile strength, extended cuff 15 mils.) OVER the purple gloves.
  - Long sleeve gown with fluid resistant protection (BLUE)
    - Full jumpsuit also available for those who wish to use one
  - Wear shoe coverings
  - Plastic face shield
  - Respirator
    - We have two (2) kinds of respirators. See pictures and explanations below.

- The half-face (left) respirator is adjustable and reusable. New protocol recently developed (March, 2020). Please clean and put back at its station when finished. The other (right) is disposable. Please DO NOT reuse this. Throw away in the BIOHAZARD trash after a single use. Both are acceptable to use in this case.
Prevention with a Known Case

- To prevent the spread of the virus, when handling remains of one who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, follow these steps.
  - *Unless the body has been previously been placed in a body bag* At the place of death and away from family, friends and others, place a mask on the individual (disposable mask pictured above) for transportation.
    - Should the person already be contained in a body bag, do not open it and disturb the individual. Proceed as normal, with proper PPE to the funeral home and continue our care procedures by following the instructions under **Precautions to Take**.
  - Place in body bag
  - Use PPE that is suggested under **Precautions to Take** for yourself.
  - **When embalming permission is secured**
    - In addition to the prementioned steps, once complete, wash all instruments and place in sterilizing tray for overnight sterilization.
    - Sterilize all tables, cabinets and handles using normal cleaning methods and then with Purell Surface Disinfectant spray. Allow to dry.
    - Place ALL disposable PPE in BIOHAZARD trash.
    - Do NOT place razor back to be reused.
    - Be careful not to mix ANY laundry with other dirty laundry. Place ALL LAUNDRY from the deceased in the BIOHAZARD trash.
  - **When embalming is not secured**
    - Prepare body for a picture identification.
      - Body may remain in body bag, but draped sheets must be used to create a gentle image. Sheets used must be placed in biohazard trash.
    - Place in BioSeal (using the heated seal)
    - Place in refrigeration*
    - Allow heated instrument to cool and sanitize with cleaner and then with Purell Surface Disinfectant. Allow to dry.

Other Preventative Measures to Take

- Clean and sanitize all high touch surfaces daily, some several times a day.
  - High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, and tablets.
- Wash your hands often and for the recommended time (20 seconds).
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol making sure to cover all parts of your hands and rubbing them together until they are dry.
  - Purell single use packets are available in our office areas and other hand sanitizers throughout the funeral home.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Above all, when in doubt, go the extra mile. If there is a concern or need in the care center, please notify Marc Ray for further help.

*Max capacity for refrigerated shelter = 10*