COVID-19 Procedures as of March 12, 2020

With the increasing risks of contracting COVID-19, it is best that the staff of Lady’s Funeral Home is on the same page when it comes to risk management procedures. The following are procedures and precautions that need to be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to you, other staff members, your family and the public in general.

First and foremost, practice good hygiene: wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, handshaking, etc.

When receiving a death call, regardless of place of death, please remember to ask if any special or additional precautions should taken. For those going on death calls, if you have any hesitation in going on a death call, please let Mike or Kevin know so that we can rearrange staff accordingly. When going out on death calls, PRACTICE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS especially if COVID-19 is suspected. There are COVID-19 kits in the removal vehicle for this specific situation and should be used appropriately.

Funeral Home staff should follow routine infection prevention and control procedures when handling a decedent who died of COVID-19. If it is necessary to transfer a body to a bag, follow Standard Precautions, including additional personal protective equipment (PPE) if splashing of fluids is expected. For transporting a body after the body has been bagged, disinfect the outside of the bag with Lysol or similar product expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.). Wear gloves when handling the body bag.

Embalmimg can be conducted but limit the number of employees in the preparation room to 2 while embalming and disinfection is occurring to limit further contamination. During embalming, follow Standard Precautions including the use of additional PPE if splashing is expected (e.g. disposable gown, face shield or goggles and facemask). Wear appropriate respiratory protection if any procedures will generate aerosols or if required for chemicals used in accordance with the manufacturer’s label. Double glove if there is a risk of cuts, puncture wounds, or other injuries that break the skin. Cleaning should be conducted with a product such as Lysol in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

After cleaning and removal of PPE, perform hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available. Soap and water should be used if the hands are visibly soiled.

Decedents with COVID-19 can be buried or cremated, but check for any additional state and local requirements that may dictate the handling and disposition of the remains of individuals who have died of certain infectious diseases.

These procedures will be updated as necessary as information is provided by local, state and federal agencies.