

YUMA COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER

PANDEMIC
INFLUENZA MASS
FATALITY EVENT

November 2008

INFORMATION FOR MANAGING PANDEMIC INFLUENZA FATALITY EVENT IN YUMA

The purpose of this is to assist local authorities in preparing to manage the increased number of deaths due to a natural disease pandemic that is deaths that are over and above the usual number of fatalities that usually occur in a locality.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

As part of the planning, each community and private/ public medical businesses should review the normal procedures followed for managing the increased number of natural deaths in their community.

CERTIFICATION OF DEATH:

Certification of death is the actual signing of a death certificate stating the cause of death and may be signed by a Physician licensed in the State of Arizona.

All deaths reported to the Medical Examiner will have the death certificate certified by the Medical Examiner.

In the event there are multiple deaths occurring over a short period of interval, the Medical Examiner will certify the death certificate after a review of the medical records. A health declaration by the Yuma County Health Director must have been issued for this to occur.

IDENTIFICATION:

Identification of a decedent is an important function for the completion of the death certificate and to return a body to the appropriate next of kin. To secure proper identification of all patients, all who interface with decedents are required to record official personal identification information for the deceased persons who enter their systems and to maintain this information in the patient medical record. If the deceased patient entered the system without official photo identification and the identity is never established, the decedent should be reported to the local police department and Public Fiduciary. There is a possibility the deceased has been reported missing by a family member who can identify the decedent by a photo.

For out of hospital deaths, police departments will use normal investigation procedures for identifying the deceased. Fingerprinting and DNA samples may be taken for delayed positive identification.

HANDLING OF REMAINS:

As a rule, human remains pose no significant threat to the community or those who handle those, provided Universal Precautions are used.

All personnel who handle pandemic flu related remains should use the recommended policies of the World Health Organization. For personal protective equipment when exposed to human remains.

1. Disposable waterproof long sleeved, cuffed gown.
2. Double layer non-sterile disposable gloves.
3. Disposable surgical mask.
4. Surgical cap and face protection if splashing of body fluids is anticipated.
5. Waterproof shoe covers.
6. Proper hand washing is always required.

POST MORTEM CARE OF REMAINS:

Human remains must be placed in a fully sealed impermeable human remains pouch prior to transport. The body and pouch must be clearly tagged with name, date of death, date of birth, and Social Security number if known. A photo should be taken of the deceased face and identification tag.

MANAGING PERSONAL EFFECTS:

The Medical Examiner and Yuma Regional Medical Center should continue their standard procedures for inventorying the personal effects of decedents to document and receipt them in such a way to ensure proper return. If the personal effects accompany the remains in the pouch, ensure that the Funeral Director is made aware of this so that may be retrieved before burial or cremation.

TRACKING OF HUMAN REMAINS:

If the name of deceased is known, seal and label each pouch and body with the proper information. If the deceased is unknown, mark each of the above "Unidentified Male or Unidentified Female" and with the Y.R.M.C. medical record number or law enforcement case number. Do not use Jane or John Doe.

STORAGE CONSIDERATIONS:

When planning for the fatality surge capacity, the ideal temperature for storing and preserving human remains is between 35 and 40 degrees. If refrigerated trailers are used, ensure the company names are covered up and the interior and floor of the trailer is metal for later decontamination.

When contracting with the trailer company, include an agreement that includes the 24 hour service of any fueling and refrigeration service. Ramps may also be required if there is no loading dock.

A normal 40 foot trailer can hold 25 pouched remains. At no time are any remains placed on top of each other. If Shelving is installed at 3 – 3 ½ feet off the floor, the number can be doubled and back injuries can be avoided.

The trailer will be numbered "Trailer #1". A log book will be established with the following information:

1. Name of deceased.
2. Place of death.
3. Location of death.
4. Date & time recorded in and out and by whom.
5. Location being transferred to and by whom.

A trailer diagram will be completed showing where remains are placed in trailer. This will be checked twice daily at 0800 and 2000 hours.

A log book of temperature readings for the refrigerated trailer will be recorded every 6 hours and recorded with temperature, date, time, and by whom.

TRANSPORT OF REMAINS:

The anticipated workload for transportation will be increased and additional resources may be required. Communities may need to look into rented utility vans or panel vans. All wording or company names should be covered.

FINAL DISPOSITION:

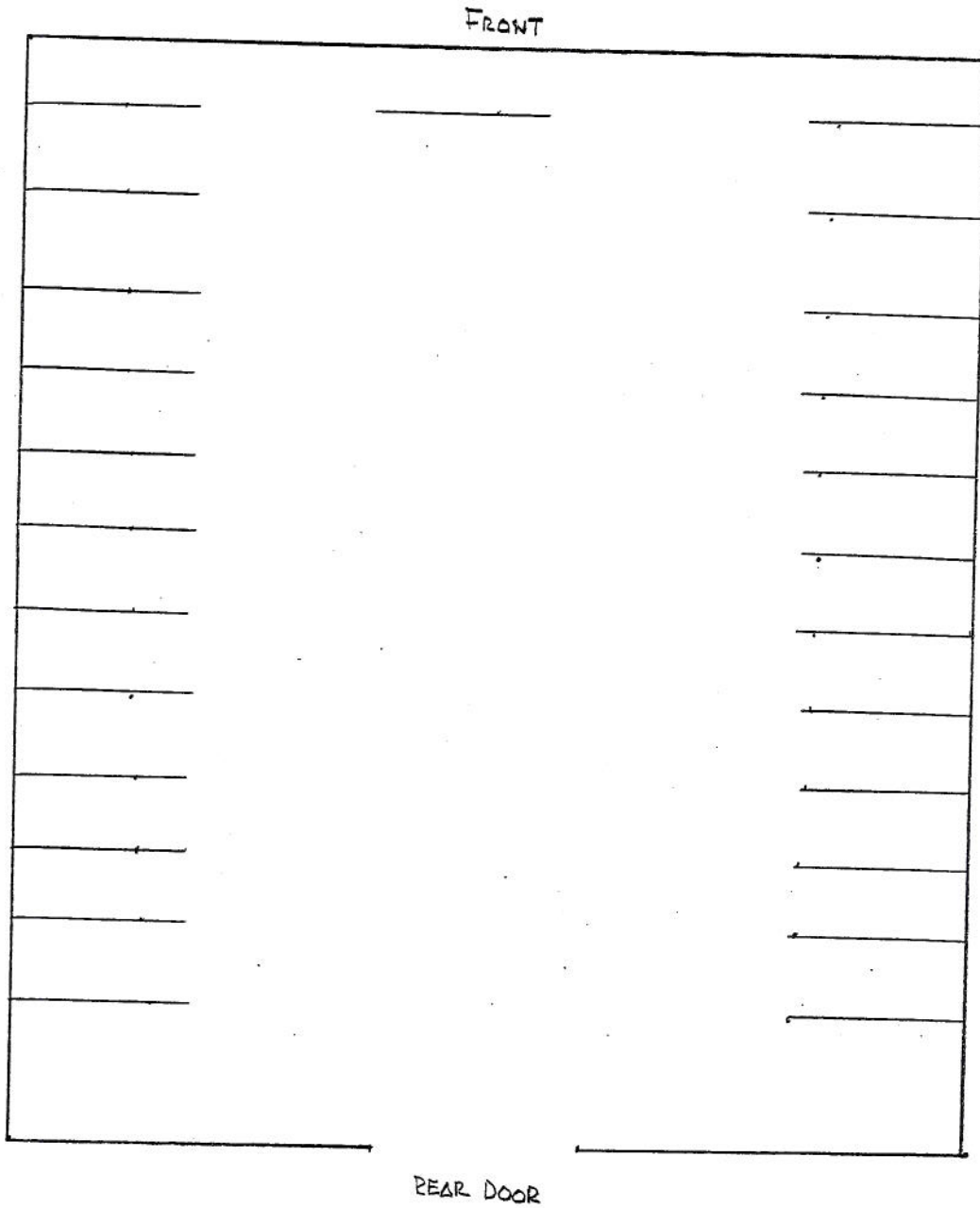
Communities should expect that in the event of pandemic flu, local funeral homes may be overwhelmed with human remains and also may have storage concerns. It will be the responsibility of each funeral home to arrange refrigerated holding facilities at their own properties.

**LOG BOOK
TRAILER #1**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME IN</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>D.O.D.</u>	<u>DATE OUT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TRANS.TO</u>	<u>INITIALS</u>
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TRAILER #1
DIAGRAM

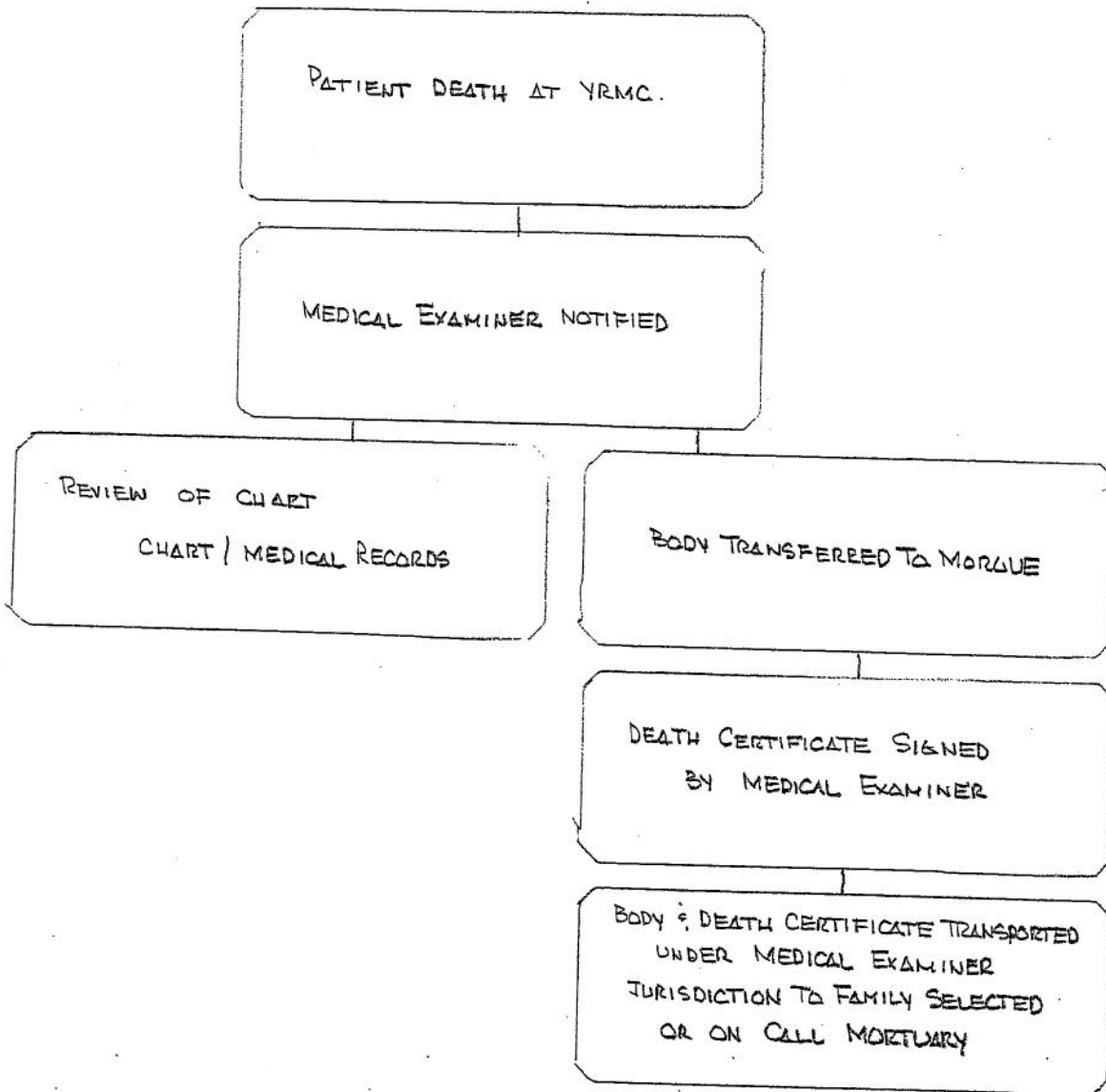
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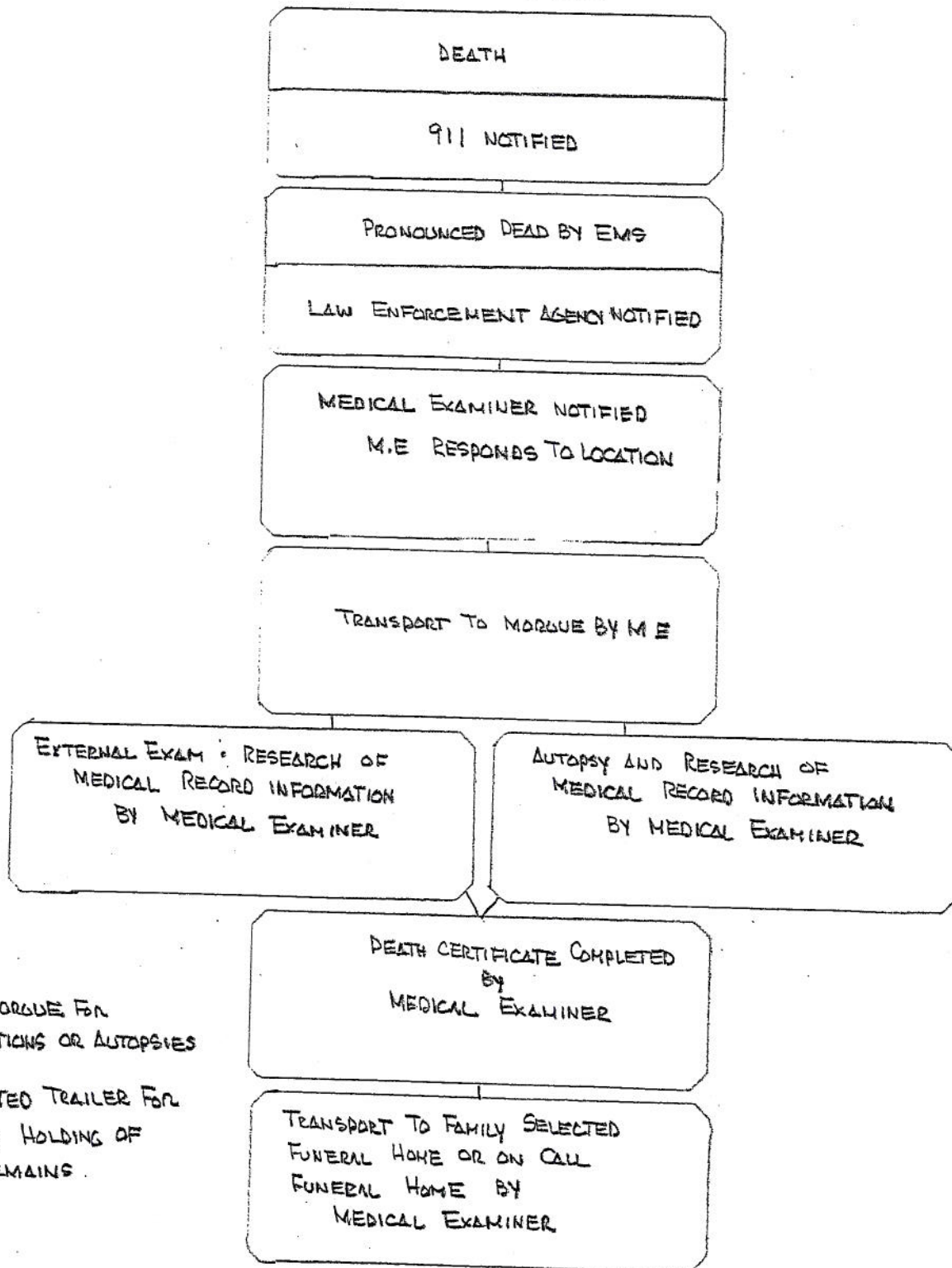
* MUST BE KEPT LOCKED AT ALL TIMES
TRAILER IS PLACED NEXT TO MORGUE ENTRANCE.

**Y.R.M.C.
IN PATIENT DEATH PROCESS**



- * ONLY IN THE EVENT OF DECLARATION BY YUMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. AS TO PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.
- * YRMC ON LOCK DOWN
- * MORGUE WILL BE USED FOR TEMPORARY HOLDING OF THESE REMAINS & EXAMINATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES.
- * 24 HR ON SITE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.

OUTSIDE MEDICAL EXAMINER DEATH PROCESS



* YRMC MORGUE FOR EXAMINATIONS OR AUTOPSIES

* REFRIGERATED TRAILER FOR TEMPORARY HOLDING OF REMAINS

**MEDICAL EXAMINER STAFFING
&
COMMAND STRUCTURE**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Dr. Victor Alvarez

Dr. Peter Patterson

Dr. Andrew Kim

INVESTIGATORS

Robert Vigil M.E. 1

Joe Lykins M.E. 2

YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Major Leon Wilmot P-2

**MEDICAL EXAMINER
YUMA COUNTY COMMUNICATION**

Yuma County Sheriff's Department unit ID:	"M.E. 1"	Robert Vigil
	"M.E. 2"	Joe Lykins

RESOURCES

Refrigerated Trailer:

NAFTA Environmental 627-3881

Pouches for Human Remains:

Naturo Supplies 1-800-4-naturo

Southland Medical Supplies 1-800-959-9160

Health Department:

Yuma County Health Department 317-4550

Yuma County Medical Examiner 336-7019

Maricopa County Medical Examiner 602-506-3322

Pima County Medical Examiner 520-243-8600

Yuma County Sheriff's Office 783-4427

Yuma County Emergency Management 373-1143

Yuma County Public Fiduciary 373-1145

Yuma Regional Medical Center 344-2000

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Family Assistance Center (FAC) should be established as soon as possible once the Public Health Declaration has been announced. The mission of the FAC is to receive families of the sick and deceased from the pandemic. It will through interviews with next of kin, collect ante-mortem information and transfers it to the proper facilities and agencies.

The (FAC) could also be the location to provide Public Service Announcements concerning the event.

POINTS OF CONSIDERATIONS:

- Adequate space for all agencies to function
- Multiple hard telephone lines
- Restrooms
- Office Supplies
- Fax machines
- Copy machines
- Two Communications equipment
- Law Enforcement personnel
- Culturally appropriate food and beverages
- Private rooms for consultations and interviews
- Television and radio for latest news updates
- Office equipment, desk, chairs, etc.
- Medical personnel
- Child care for parents providing or gathering information

Hours of operation and telephone numbers should be released to the public by the way of a news conference. This can be accomplished with the County Health Department.

The FAC should be located away from the treating medical facilities, they should be accessible and easy for families to locate.

The FAC should be organized and operated in such a way as to create an atmosphere of organization, calmness, professionalism, concern, and care. To accomplish the mission of the FAC will require several agencies and volunteer organizations to work together.

RECOMMENDED STAFFING:

Yuma County Health Department Personnel
Yuma County Public Fiduciary
Yuma Regional Medical Center Representatives
State of Arizona Department of Public Health
Red Cross
Salvation Army
Local Law Enforcement
Medical Staffing
Clergy Organizations
Consulate of Mexico Representative
City, County, and State Representatives
Facility maintenance staffing