

Email from Dr. Michael Slater of the [Progressive Chevra Kadisha in Chicago](#), dated March 19, 2020:

Hello—

Our chevra kadisha steering committee has been keeping on top of the current situation and our ability to respond.

At the moment, we have not had a rise in deaths from respiratory illness. I expect it will come in a week or two.

The following is what I proposed to our chevra. It might serve as a model for others.

It is clear that standard PPE is sufficient for doing tahara.

Our main Jewish funeral home has adequate PPE for now. Funeral directors are considered eligible for release of emergency supplies of PPE from the government.

As for doing tahara—I suggest we take the following approach for now:

1. CK members who are comfortable with PPE and tahara should continue to do so. Anyone not capable or comfortable should not volunteer.
2. In order to conserve PPE, we run teams of 3 people only.
3. Team members have to commit to keeping distance from each other and monitoring donning and doffing and hand hygiene. No sharing chocolate afterwards.
4. When the shit hits the fan and there's no PPE, we stop doing taharot.
5. If we get past item 4 without losing supplies and personnel, and we know that members of the CK have already had COVID19, we prioritize "convalescent" members of the CK to doing taharot.

Thanks.

Michael