



# INTERAGENCY EXPEDITED BCP TASKFORCE

## Purpose / Goal

In a continued effort to support the hospitals and funeral industry, OCME has greatly expanded its operations to include long-term storage capabilities. This operation will ensure that OCME can take possession of cases for funeral home release or long-term storage until final disposition arrangements can be made by the decedent's family.

## How Will this be Executed?

- Hospital visit will be scheduled based on specific criteria, including number of cases and length of time cases have been in storage
- BCP Taskforce Strike Team will arrive on scheduled date to verify all decedents are properly documented, packaged and transferred to OCME custody. They will:
  - Reach out to the hospital prior to arrival to work through administrative or logistical issues
  - Coordinate with hospital to develop a BCP manifest on-site in real-time
  - Coordinate with hospital to review case paperwork status and collect missing documents, as needed
  - Coordinate with the hospital to re-package cases in disaster pouches, as needed
  - Transfer cases to OCME Transport vehicle in a dignified, respectful manner protected from public/press view
- BCP Taskforce Strike team can take custody of ALL CASES with appropriate documentation
- Relinquishment of unnecessary BCP units will be scheduled following case removal

## What Agencies are Involved?

- |         |                      |                     |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
| • OCME  | • FDNY               | • NY National Guard |
| • NYCEM | • GNYHA              | • US DHHS DMORT     |
| • NYPD  | • Health + Hospitals | • DCAS              |

## Who Needs to be Present from the Hospital?

- Hospital Chief Operating Officer (or designee)
- Hospital Emergency Management / Fatality Management POC
- Hospital Admissions / Administrative / Patient Records Personnel
- Hospital Mortuary Operations
- Hospital Security

## How to Prepare for a Strike Team Visit?

- BCP must be accessible to BCP Taskforce Strike Team
- Cases must be packaged in disaster pouches, as available
- All cases must have a registered Death Certificate filed in eVital - For unclaimed cases DC must indicate interim method and place of disposition. *(Draft/incomplete DCs are not accepted)*
- All cases must be accompanied by a hospital face sheet
- All cases in BCP must be properly labeled (including hospital wristband and tag attached to body bag exterior indicating: Name, Date-of-Death, Medical Record #)

## What Should the Hospital Communicate to Families?

- During this unprecedented time, OCME will take custody of any case in New York City, regardless of funeral home involvement, in order to properly and respectfully store the decedents and give families time to organize final disposition of their loved one
- Cases taken into OCME custody that have family involvement will **not** be sent to for City Burial
- Families must be explained that their loved one is being moved to an OCME facility but that does not change the family's ability to facilitate final disposition, nor will their loved one be sent to Hart Island for City Burial unless they request it
- Funeral Directors may obtain information regarding a case in OCME custody here: [www.nyc.gov/fdportal](http://www.nyc.gov/fdportal)