



SAFETY POLICY – February 2020

Performing a tahara is an activity which poses certain risks to the health of those taking part in the sacred work of our organization. Therefore, the Men's Chevra Kadisha of Greater Washington has established this Safety Policy to protect our volunteers, their families, and our community through the implementation of reasonable precautions taken during a tahara. Those precautions include wearing gowns and gloves at all times when volunteers may come into contact with the deceased. This practice is supported by the Chevra Kadisha's rabbinic advisors.

As further clarification of this Safety Policy, the Chevra Kadisha's Board of Directors has directed the following:

- No volunteer may participate in the performance of a tahara without wearing a gown and gloves at all times during those steps of a tahara involving contact with the deceased.
- Taking additional safety precautions during the performance of a tahara (such as wearing masks, shoe covers, hair covers, etc.) is encouraged, but not required. Each individual volunteer is responsible for making his own risk assessment and decision regarding the additional safety precautions that he should take during the performance of a tahara.
- The Chevra Kadisha expects each funeral home to provide the equipment necessary to implement this policy. In the event that such equipment is not provided (and the tahara team leader does not possess such equipment), the tahara team is advised not to perform the tahara until such equipment is obtained or made available.
- On a periodic basis, the Chevra Kadisha will sponsor safety training available at no charge to all volunteers.

Questions regarding this Policy may be submitted to any member of the Chevra Kadisha Board. To the extent such questions involve the application of *halacha*, the Board will consult with its rabbinic advisor(s) and will provide a response.