

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH




Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-15

TO: Hospitals and Nursing Homes

FROM: Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH 

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, LNHA
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: March 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Notice from the Chief Medical Examiner re COVID-19

The attached correspondence is from the Chief Medical Examiner's Office.



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3/18/2020

As the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has statutory jurisdiction over all deaths related to a disease which might constitute a threat to public health, **all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases should be reported to the OCME.** The vast majority of these decedents, however, will not be brought to the OCME. As these are natural deaths, death certification should be completed by the treating physician. These deaths may be certified as: **Complications of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Respiratory Infection.** Contributing conditions (e.g., pulmonary emphysema, obesity, etc.) may be listed in Part 2 of the death certificate.