

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING A DEATH ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19

FACILITY/PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) related deaths are **immediately** reportable to the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch (COVID-19 Emergency Response) of the District of Columbia Department of Health by sending **clinical/discharge notes** via the following:

Email: coronavirus.epi@dc.gov

OR

E-fax: 202-442-8060

NOTE: All deaths occurring in the District of Columbia must also be reported to the D.C. Vital Records Division, through the Electronic Death Reporting System. Since July 17, 2021, attending physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) have been authorized to certify cause of death for deaths determined to be due to COVID-19 when reporting death to the DC Health Vital Records Division.

Per D.C. Code § 7-231.12(f), within 48 hours after death, the physician in charge of a patient's care for the condition which resulted in death shall complete, sign, and return the medical certification portion of the certificate of death to the funeral director, except when inquiry is required by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. In the absence or inability of the death certifier, or with his or her approval, the medical certification may be completed by the death certifier's associate physician, the chief medical officer of the institution in which the death occurred, or the physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, if the death is due to natural causes. The person completing the medical certification shall attest to its accuracy through an electronic process approved by the Registrar.