

December 20, 2021

Dear Healthcare Providers and Facilities,

The Tennessee Department of Health is committed to facilitating public awareness of the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including timely reporting of death data, which can be delayed by weeks or months with the traditional death certificate process. Therefore, we are writing to remind you that deaths due to COVID-19 should be immediately reported to the Tennessee Department of Health via one of the following mechanisms:

1. Report via telephone: Please be prepared to provide at a minimum patient name, date of birth, date of death, and location of death.

· Office of the State Chief Medical Examiner (OSCME) 615-772-3789 or 844-860-4511, or

· Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness Division (CEDEP) 615-741-7247.

2. Report via email: Please include at a minimum patient name, date of birth, date of death, and location of death.

· OSCME - [OSCME.response@tn.gov](mailto:OSCME.response@tn.gov) or

· CEDEP - [COVID.Deaths@tn.gov](mailto:COVID.Deaths@tn.gov)

3. Report via fax using PH-1600 form:

· The PH-1600 (available here <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/PH-1600.pdf>) may be faxed to CEDEP at 615-741-3857

· Please indicate that death has occurred in the "Clinical Information" portion of the form.

4. Report online:

- Online reporting may be completed in the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) Base System (NBS): <https://hssi.tn.gov/auth/login>.
- Healthcare providers and laboratories will log in to NBS to enter patient demographics, facility, and provider information, attach lab report information if needed, and indicate that death has occurred as a result of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Reporters can request an account at <https://redcap.health.tn.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=8L7CMWHN4M>.
- Please email [ceds.informatics@tn.gov](mailto:ceds.informatics@tn.gov) if you encounter problems signing up.

Thank you for your continued care of patients and your support of public health interventions and data reporting.



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State Chief Medical Examiner