



# COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Office of the Medical Examiner

1000 – 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kenosha, WI 53140  
(262) 653-3869  
Fax (262) 574-2221

March 18, 2020

To: Hospital/Clinic Administrators  
Nursing Supervisors  
Hospital Physicians  
Hospital Chiefs of Staff  
Hospice Physicians/Administrators  
Nursing Home Physicians/Administrators  
Risk Managers  
Funeral Directors  
Emergency Medical Services

**Subject: The COVID-19 issue**

As you are probably aware, Governor Evers has issued an Executive Order directing a Public Health Emergency and establishing Wisconsin's Response Protocol for COVID-19. If you are aware of or involved with any COVID-19 related deaths, please notify the Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office (KCMEO) at: **262-653-3869 or after hours through Kenosha Dispatch at 262-656-1234**

The KCMEO is responsible for the certification of deaths that constitute a public health emergency, in this case, COVID-19. In that regard, the KCMEO will be signing the death certificates in all cases of deaths in Kenosha County related to COVID-19 infection.

In the majority of cases, no autopsy will be performed. If you have contact with the families of the decedent prior to death, please relay this information to them.

If COVID-19 has been tested for and confirmed before death, the KCMEO will assume jurisdiction and sign the death certificate by review of the decedent's medical records. The decedent will be released to a funeral home and will not be transported to the KCMEO.

If COVID-19 has been tested for and has not yet been confirmed, we will determine jurisdiction when the test results become available. In the meantime, the decedent can remain in the hospital morgue or one of the KCMEO's Deputy Medical Examiners may authorize release to a funeral home.

Please remember that the KCMEO is always available to help. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Patrice Hall, MS, D-ABMDI  
Kenosha County Medical Examiner