

January 4, 2021

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

The PA Department of Health is in the process of transitioning death reporting from a paper-based system to electronic reporting. This new system is known as the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and is a web-based death reporting system that simplifies the data reporting process while increases data quality and timeliness. Deaths reported through EDRS enable the PA Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to evaluate timely death data for public health purposes.

Staff from our EDRS Outreach team are contacting facilities to provide support to facilities that have not yet transitioned to EDRS. Please note that at a minimum, EDRS must be used to report all deaths attributed to COVID-19.

I encourage you to work with my team to establish an EDRS account for your facility. Once deaths are reported in EDRS, individuals within your facility, including your medical director, may access death records reported through this system. User account access is recommended for professional nurses who may be pronouncing the death, medical records staff who may be data entering the death information, and medical professionals who certify the death. Medical certifiers who are members of your staff or are under contract to your facility should be granted access to your facility's EDRS account.

Primary care physicians or other medical professionals not employed or contracted by your facility, but who certify deaths that occur at your facility, will be set up with an EDRS account associated with their facility of employment.

You may learn more about EDRS, including how to request user accounts and training resources at www.doh.pa.gov/EDRS. The state mandate to report all COVID-19 deaths through EDRS is published on SRN 2020-01, which is available at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Reporting-Registries/Pages/State-Registrar-Notices.aspx>.

The time to transition to electronic reporting of deaths is now. If you have questions regarding EDRS or death reporting in Pennsylvania, please contact my office at 800-323-9613.

Sincerely,



Audrey C. Marrocco
State Registrar and Director
Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries