

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH


Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

BLAST FAX 2021-12

TO: All Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Residential Care Homes, Home Health Agencies, and Hospice Agencies

FROM: Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH 

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Frugale, State Registrar of Vital Records

DATE: April 15, 2021

SUBJECT: FEMA COVID 19 Funeral Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. This program is scheduled to begin on April 12, 2021 (see link below for details). The program will pay a maximum of \$9,000 per funeral and up to \$35,000 per applicant if they incurred expenses for multiple funerals. We anticipate an increase in inquiries to Vital Records regarding this program and anticipate Medical Certifiers/Facilities will be contacted with requests to modify the cause-of-death on death certificates. Medical Certifiers/Facilities should be made aware of the program and the potential influx of amendment requests for change in cause of death. The medical certifier/facility are also required to report all COVID-19 deaths to the OCME (Office of the Chief Medical Examiner), so, if there is a change to add COVID-19, the death must be reported. The attached document provides the details of the program and the key points for the medical certifier.

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>



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