



August 24, 2017

Dear Medical Examiner/Coroner:

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Vital Records (BVR) is pleased to announce the arrival of the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). Pursuant to Public Health Law §4148, the Department was authorized to develop, implement, and maintain an EDRS for the purposes of electronically completing, filing, and maintaining death certificates in New York State (excluding deaths within the 5 boroughs). To comply with Public Health Law, EDRS will enable authorized medical professionals to complete the medical certification section of death certificates 24 hours a day through a secure online system.

The first phase of implementation began in January 2017 in a statewide regional rollout. Today, EDRS is successfully used for only natural deaths originating in a medical facility, not requiring the involvement of a medical examiner or coroner. Although the first phase of implementation restricted the use of EDRS, NYSDOH-BVR is strategizing and preparing to expand the onboarding and roll-out process to the medical examiners and coroners across New York State.

The expanded implementation will occur following the successful completion of a medical examiner/coroner pilot stage that will take place in select counties and offices in the coming weeks. At that time, deaths occurring at home, unattended, or from unnatural causes should be processed on-line using the EDRS. To prepare for this second phase, NYSDOH-BVR will provide comprehensive training and onboarding plans for all medical examiner and coroner offices. Ample notice will be provided and several training opportunities will be available for you and your staff. The EDRS team will take all necessary measures to ensure that your office and individual accounts are set up prior to your county's go-live date.

NYSDOH-BVR also understands that there has been conflicting information provided about the training and implementation dates for the EDRS. We urge you to contact the EDRS team directly for the most accurate and updated information on training opportunities, roll-out dates, as well as for information on all other inquiries. Please contact the Department of Health's, Bureau of Vital Records – EDRS Unit via email at edrs@health.ny.gov, or visit the website at http://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/edrs/.

Support and cooperation from the medical examiners and coroners is essential for moving forward and successfully implementing this worthwhile initiative. The Bureau of Vital Record's, EDRS staff look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming weeks. We greatly appreciate your time, patience, and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert Locicero
NYS Registrar
Director, New York State Vital Records