



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER COUNTY OF COOK

**PONNI ARUNKUMAR, MD**

THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

DR. ROBERT J. STEIN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

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March 23, 2020

To All Hospitals in Cook County,

I would like to take this moment to commend the heroic efforts being taken by hospitals across the County as we face this unprecedented pandemic. Now more than ever we need to work together to ensure the safety of everyone. In order for the Medical Examiner's Office to continue carrying out its mandate pursuant to Section 38-118-121 of the Medical Examiner Ordinance, it is important that any COVID-19 death be reported immediately to our office by calling (312) 666-0200, as we are responsible for signing the death certificate. Where cases have been diagnosed in hospitals, they will be treated as records review cases. The medical records will be examined and the body will be released to funeral homes without the need to transport to the Medical Examiner's Office.

Respectfully,

Carlos Claudio, Esq.  
Executive Officer