



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20220201-00555-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** **Reminder: COVID-19 Associated Deaths Reportable to the Mississippi State Department of Health**

Dear Colleagues,

- As a reminder, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) requires reporting of all COVID-19 associated deaths to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology.
- **MSDH is now identifying a significant number of deaths from death certificates that are occurring within healthcare facilities and are not being reported by the healthcare facility or by the healthcare provider/physician.** This results in delays in identifying and public reporting of COVID-19 associated deaths. MSDH is unable to report timely, accurate data without your cooperation and timely reporting.
- COVID-19 associated deaths that occur within a healthcare facility (hospital, long-term acute care hospital, nursing home, personal care home, or assisted living facility, among other healthcare facilities), including deaths seen in the emergency department, should be reported to MSDH by that facility or the healthcare provider/physician.
- Reports should be made by phone to 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours, weekends and holidays), or by fax to 601-576-7497.
- When reporting a COVID-19 related death, please make sure to provide the patient's name and date of birth in addition to the date of death. If faxing the report, please also include the patient's positive lab result if available. Please include the name of the person reporting and a contact number in the event additional details are needed.
- COVID-19 associated deaths in pregnant women or in the postpartum period (if the infection occurred while still pregnant) are also reportable. Reports should include:
  - Estimated date of delivery.
  - Gestational Age at time of death.
  - Date of birth and age of pregnant woman at time of death.
  - Date of positive COVID-19 test and type of test.
  - Onset of illness.
  - Hospitalization status and date of admission.
  - Underlying medical conditions (i.e., gest DM, obesity, preeclampsia, HTN, etc.).
  - Status of infant (live birth, fetal death, spontaneous abortion), if delivered prior to death.
  - Date of delivery, if delivered prior to death.
  - Mode of delivery, if delivered prior to death.

Please feel free to reach out to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology with questions/concerns at 601-576-7725.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist

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**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	Mississippi State Department of Health
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	MSHAN-20220201-00555-ALT
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Health Alert
<b>Status (Type):</b>	Actual ( )
<b>Message Type:</b>	Alert
<b>Reference:</b>	MSHAN-00555
<b>Severity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Acknowledgement:</b>	No
<b>Sensitive:</b>	Not Sensitive
<b>Message Expiration:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Urgency:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Delivery Time:</b>	600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT ( <b>ALT=Health Alert</b> , <b>ADV=Health Advisory</b> , <b>UPD=Health Update</b> , <b>MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service</b> )).
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
<b>Health Alert:</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory:</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update:</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Health Info Service:</b>	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Status (Type):</b>	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
<b>Message Type:</b>	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled



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Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).