

# CORONER OF WAYNE COUNTY

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**EDWARD R. HOWELL**

EDWARD R. HOWELL  
*Coroner*

CAROL R. LIENERT  
*Deputy*

ROBERT MORCOM  
*Deputy*

ETTA DAY  
*Deputy*



MARK M. JAMES  
*Chief Deputy*

LAURA WALKER-SWINGLE  
*Deputy & Death Investigation Supervisor*

AIMEE L. PEARSON  
*Administrative Assistant*

**March 19, 2020      11:00 AM**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Attention: Medical Facilities/Wayne Memorial Hospital/Long Term Care Facilities/Medical Providers/Caregivers/Funeral Directors/Hospice Agencies/Attending Medical Certifiers**

### **RE: REPORTING COVID 19 DEATHS, SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED**

The current circumstances we face regarding COVID 19 and how it relates to death investigation is addressed in PA State Law **CORONER INVESTIGATIONS 1218-B (7)** **A death known or suspected to be due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard (to be investigated by the Coroner).**

Therefore, I am advising that per state law, if a death occurs in Wayne County, and the death is suspected or confirmed to be due to (or complicated by) COVID 19, the death must be reported to this office. We will investigate on a case-by-case basis.

My office remains committed to the health and safety of our communities, and we will do our best to determine the cause and manner of deaths referred to us for investigation while taking extensive measures to protect our staff and families. I ask for your patience and prayers as we work to serve you.

If you need to report a death, please call the Wayne County Communications Center at 570-253-3109 to request the Coroner.

Sincerely,

*Edward R. Howell*

Edward R. Howell

Wayne County Coroner



Wayne County Court House · 925 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431 | 570-253-4952 · Fax: 570-647-1594 |