

OCME Response

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Good morning,

The Chief Medical Examiner responded with the following. I touched base with Karen from CHA and she said she'll get answers over to us soon.

"The information that Senator Sampson has requested would need to be supplied by the State's Vital Record/DPH section. We have reached out to them and it is my understanding that they are working on it

Although the OCME investigates all COVID-19 deaths, the vast majority are certified at hospitals. Because CT has not fully implemented the electronic death registration system, we only have paper copies of the certificates. Vital records receives the paper copies (and some electronic copies) and then enters them into their system for coding. Therefore, they should be able to obtain most of this information. A key caveat of this is that treating clinicians complete these death certificates and there is quite a degree of variability as to whether contributing conditions are included. So the absence of a contributing condition on a death certificate, unfortunately, does not necessarily mean there was not one.

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Chief Medical Examiner"

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