

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: David Scanlan, Deputy NH Secretary of State
(603) 271-3242**

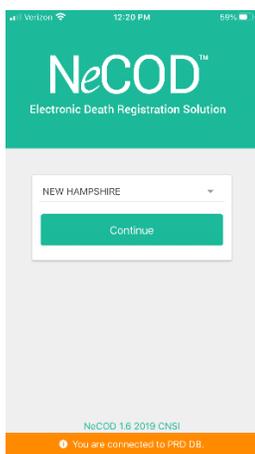
NH’s Groundbreaking NeCOD app assists healthcare workers on the frontlines of COVID-19 Crisis

The NH Secretary of State, Division of Vital Record’s (NHDVRA), has designed a groundbreaking program to eliminate the manual recording of death by the medical community, and developed and implemented National electronic Certification Of Death (NeCOD). NeCOD is the first and only mobile application in the nation for recording death events. NeCOD records death information that is securely entered and transmitted by the medical professional certifying the death directly into NHDVRA’s main database for Vital Records: the NH Vital Records Information Network (NHVRIN).

Timely information is critical when reporting back to New Hampshire Health and Human Services (DHHS) as well the Center for Disease Control (CDC), particularly in our efforts to combat the opioid crisis, and now especially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the greatest benefits of this application has been that death certificates are being handled remotely and electronically, eliminating the need for face-to-face interaction during a time when many offices are closed and social distancing is so important to public health. Additionally, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, deaths certified through NeCOD are processed significantly more quickly than those that are not.

In addition to the use of NeCOD, NHDVRA is also the first and only organization in the country to implement a situational surveillance interface. Situational surveillance is a cutting-edge tool that allows the Department of Health and Human Services to gather critical information during public health incidents that emerge and change quickly. Working together, stakeholders have been able to quickly roll-out COVID-related questions in NeCOD to get additional information useful in public health analyses and decision-making. The questions gather data regarding whether the decedent was tested for COVID-19, and whether the death was suspected but unconfirmed as due to COVID-19. This critical information is captured for statistical purposes that can inform the way we combat this crisis.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of qualified certifiers have been registering to use NHVRIN and NeCOD because of its speed and mobility. In utilizing this groundbreaking technology, New Hampshire is at the forefront of innovatively responding to this crisis through advanced technology and collaboration.



###