

The State of New Jersey has procured refrigerated trailers to serve as a temporary morgue site in the north, and a refrigerated warehouse off Exit 8 on the New Jersey Turnpike to cover the central and southern portions of the state. The purpose of these facilities is to relieve the pressure currently being placed on the ME offices, Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF's), hospitals and funeral homes. Both temporary morgue facilities are currently fully operational.

If a LTCF, Medical Examiner Office, hospital, or funeral home is at full morgue capacity, the facility may transport decedents to the temporary morgue sites. The transferring agency maintains responsibility for making appropriate and timely arrangements for the removal of the remains from the State Temporary Morgue for final disposition. The facilities must also notify the next of kin that their loved one has been transferred to a temporary morgue.

All bodies being transferred must be properly identified and placed in body pouches. No unidentified bodies will be accepted at the temporary morgue sites. Transportation of decedents to the temporary morgue sites is the responsibility of the transferring facility. Such transportation must comply with State regulations for transport of remains.

LTCF's, hospitals, Medical Examiner Offices and funeral homes may transport human remains to State Temporary Morgue Sites as follows:

- All facilities must call the respective temporary morgue prior to initiating transport for arrival planning and instructions.
- A funeral home that has decreased capacity is encouraged to use the temporary morgue to store remains. Funeral homes should decompress their facilities in order to make space to accommodate new cases.
- When a hospital, long-term care facility or Medical Examiner Office is unable to continue to safely store the remains, the facility may transport the remains to the designated State Temporary Morgue for the catchment area in which the facility is located during operating hours. Hospitals are encouraged to utilize the temporary morgue sites in order to maintain available space in their morgue areas.

In order to be considered for temporary storage, a death certificate must be created in EDRS, and the cause of death must be certified by a physician. All transferring agencies remain responsible for the remains until removed for final disposition by a licensed funeral home.

It is the responsibility of the LTCF, hospital, or Medical Examiner Office to provide their staff with the appropriate PPE and to have the paperwork completed prior to arrival at a temporary storage facility. (See "Required Forms" below)

Decedents must be pouched, with the outside of the pouch marked in indelible ink with the following inscribed to the right of the zipper, at the end of the pouch at the zipper closure:

- Name of decedent
- Date of death
- EDRS Case #
- Hospital Name
- Hospital Phone #

Arrangements for the following counties can be made at the Northern Temporary Morgue:

Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, Morris, Sussex, Warren

Rutgers Medical School Parking Lot 1A

153 South Orange Ave, Newark

Hours of Operation: 7:00am-9:00pm

Telephone: 609.433.4117

Morgue-north@gw.njsp.org

Arrangements for the following counties can be made at the Central Temporary Morgue:

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Union

170 Disbrow Hill Road, Millstone Township, NJ

Hours of Operation: 7:00am-9:00pm

Telephone: 609.433.0641

Morgue-central@gw.njsp.org

Arrangements for the following counties can also be made at the Central Temporary Morgue:

Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem

170 Disbrow Hill Road, Millstone Township, NJ

Hours of Operation: 7:00am-9:00pm

Telephone: 609.433.4184

Morgue-south@gw.njsp.org

Please note that although the central and southern facilities are the same, telephone numbers and email contacts are unique to the 2 county regions.

Forms can be found at <https://nj.gov/health/me/covid19/>