



DELAWARE COUNTY CORONER

100 W. Main Street, Room 303A • Muncie, Indiana 47305
Telephone (765) 747-7724 • Fax (765) 747-7769 • Emergency (765) 747-7778

RICHARD A. HOWELL JR., Coroner

April 2, 2020

The Delaware County Coroners officers has been investigating a death related to a novel coronavirus positive test. When suspected, test results are normally expected in seven to 10 days postmortem. However, in this particular case novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was not initially suspected and was at the very onset of the pandemic locally.

With multiple preexisting factors the patient's primary care physician reported the passing as initially unremarkable.

After the deceased was release to the mortuary and prepared by the mortuary for final arrangements; the deceased companion tested positive for novel coronavirus and was living with the deceased just days before testing positive.

After consultation with the CDC in Atlanta, the postmortem test was unable to be conducted for laboratory confirmation on the deceased.

The Delaware County Coroner's office is able to determine that the novel coronavirus was a contributing factor in the decedent's death by



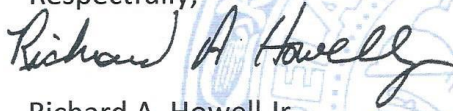
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a positive test result of the decedent's wife within days of his passing, thusly confirming the virus was present in the home at the time of his death.

Respectfully,



Richard A. Howell Jr.

Delaware County Coroner

