



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

September 21, 2021

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We are contacting you because we have learned that \_\_\_\_\_ may have died from COVID-19 or its complications. Please accept our deepest sympathies for your loss. A COVID-19-related death is a tragedy, and we want to learn why these deaths occurred as a way of preventing future COVID-19 deaths in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan State University's (MSU) are jointly investigating why Michigan residents have died from COVID-19. A panel made up of physicians, nurses, public health, and community representatives will review the circumstances of \_\_\_\_\_'s death with the overall goal of learning more about experiences with testing, healthcare, public health, post-hospital care, insurance to learn if there are opportunities to improve the system of care for COVID-19 patients. More information is also available at [micovdi.msu.edu](https://micovdi.msu.edu).

By learning more about COVID-19-related deaths we can help prevent these tragedies from happening to others. For this project to be successful, it is important that we gather as much information as possible concerning each death. Project staff will soon be calling you to ask if you are willing to be interviewed for this death investigation project.

Your participation is voluntary, and you may change your mind or stop the interview at any time. The information collected during your interview will remain confidential to the extent permitted by law. Once all the information is gathered, the information will be reviewed by the COVID Mortality Advisory Panel. No one will be identified individually in any summaries or reports that are developed for this project.

Your participation in this project is key in helping us to develop recommendations for preventing future COVID-19 deaths. Thank you for your consideration to be interviewed. We will be calling you at \_\_\_\_\_ to see if you are willing to help with this important project. If the telephone number we have for you is not correct or you would like to contact us about to this project, please feel free to contact Melanie Adkins at 517-884-2098 ([madkins@msu.edu](mailto:madkins@msu.edu)), Dr. Kenneth Rosenman ([rosenman@msu.edu](mailto:rosenman@msu.edu)) or Dr. Dawn Misra ([misradaw@msu.edu](mailto:misradaw@msu.edu)).

Sincerely yours,

Patricia McKane, DVM, MPH