

Cardiac Arrest/Death

Because of the overwhelming strain on the healthcare system, paramedics can no longer try to resuscitate patients who are found to be in an unwitnessed cardiac arrest. If the patient went into cardiac arrest while in the presence of the paramedics and attempts were made that were unsuccessful, the paramedics will leave the deceased where they are found. This form is meant to assist family members and/or friends in the steps that will follow:

- The paramedics will leave the body where it is found.
- If attempts at resuscitation were made, some of the equipment used will be left on the body. It is important that this equipment is left where it is. **DO NOT remove any of the equipment left by the paramedics.**
- **The paramedics will call the police for you.** The police will assist you when they arrive in arranging either the medical examiner or the funeral home to pick up your loved one. The paramedics will not wait for the police to arrive before they leave. They must leave to assist other patients who have called 911. Due to the strain on emergency services, there may be a delay in the arrival of police, funeral home, and/or medical examiner.
- **You may cover the body with a sheet, but do not move the body unless directed to do so by the police.**

Emergency Medical Services is truly sorry for your loss. We encourage you to lean on family and friends to help you through the grief process. You may also want to consider your religious institutions if you have one. You may want to consider grief counseling.



These Home Care Instructions are for use during specified times of severe pandemic influenza, courtesy of the Metro Region EMS System, Metro Emergency Services Board, 2099 W. University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55014-3431

