



# Autopsy Information for the RECOVER Tissue Pathology Consent Form



**RECOVER**

Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery

*An Initiative Funded by the National Institutes of Health*

**RECOVERcovid.org**

# Thank you for your interest in the RECOVER study.

We're deeply sorry for the death of your loved one. By joining RECOVER, your loved one can help us learn about the long-term health effects of COVID in ways that are not possible when alive.



## What is an autopsy?

An autopsy is a medical exam of a body after death. At the hospital, a doctor (called a pathologist) does an autopsy to learn more about how or why someone died.

## Why are autopsies done?

An autopsy can help us understand the cause of death and learn if the person had certain diseases.

## Why is RECOVER doing an autopsy study (also called tissue pathology study)?

In this study, we want to understand why some people who get COVID get better, while other people stay sick for a long time. As part of the RECOVER study, researchers do an autopsy on a person who has died to learn:

- How COVID affects different parts of the body
- The long-term effects of COVID

Researchers will also look at information in the health record of the person who died.

## What happens during the autopsy?

A doctor (called a pathologist) looks at the outside and inside of the body after death. They respectfully collect small samples of tissues and organs to study them, such as:

- Blood or other fluids, such as spinal fluid
- Eyes
- Brain
- Heart
- Lungs
- Liver
- Spleen
- Pancreas
- Kidneys
- Bladder
- Organs in the belly, like the stomach or colon

You can choose to give permission for them to only look at certain parts of the body (for example, only from the chest and belly, not the head). But, this could make it harder to figure out what caused the death and could make the autopsy less useful for RECOVER research.

## What happens after the autopsy?

As part of the research study:

- 1 The pathologist will give a unique number to the samples needed for research, so they will not have any personally-identifying information with them.
- 2 Then they carefully and respectfully prepare the body to make it possible to have an open casket funeral, or other event in which the body can be viewed.
- 3 They will send the samples to a lab for storage (called a biorepository) to have tests done on them later.





## Will I get results from the autopsy?

You can get a report of the autopsy results, if you are the legal next of kin.



The pathologist will write a report about what they learned from the autopsy, which will include the cause of death, if known.

Reports are usually available within 60 working days, although some reports may take longer.



We strongly recommend that you look at this report with your doctor who can help explain the results.

The report will not include research findings from the RECOVER study, such as information about genes (the part of DNA passed from parent to child that tells cells what to do).

## Will the information learned from the autopsy be kept private (confidential)?



**Yes**, everything learned from the autopsy will be kept private, which means only people who have permission can see information about the autopsy.

The people who can see the information include:

- Doctors who cared for the person
- The pathologists doing the autopsy or looking at the samples
- Other trained healthcare providers
- The RECOVER study research team – if the researchers talk about or write papers to share what they learn in this study, they will not include any information that could identify the people who had died and were part of the study

## Will I have to pay for the autopsy?

No. There will be no cost to you or to the family for the autopsy.

We're here to answer your questions about having your deceased loved one in RECOVER.

Email us your questions at:

[RECOVER\\_Tissue\\_Pathology@nyulangone.org](mailto:RECOVER_Tissue_Pathology@nyulangone.org)



Or scan this QR code with your phone to get a pre-filled email subject and message in your email app.

To learn more about the RECOVER study, visit:

[RECOVERcovid.org](https://RECOVERcovid.org)