

WLEM COVID-19 VIRUS CRITERIA ADDENDUM

It is the policy of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc. to include on its memorial the names of officers who are killed by SARS-CoV-2 (referred to herein as COVID-19) contracted in the line of duty.

The following guidelines will be used to evaluate and determine whether a law enforcement officer was killed in the line of duty by COVID-19.

Section I

Contracted in the line of duty means: The evidence shows that it is *more likely than not* that the disease resulted from the law enforcement officer's exposure to the disease, or the virus that caused the disease COVID-19, while performing a line of duty activity or action.

- A. In general, it will be presumed that the evidence shows a law enforcement officer with COVID-19 contracted it in the line of duty when (1) the officer had engaged in line of duty action or activity under circumstances that indicate that it was medically possible that the officer was exposed to the virus, COVID-19 while so engaged; and (2) the officer did contract the disease, COVID-19 within a time frame where it was medically possible to contract the disease from that exposure.
- B. This presumption can be overcome by specific reliable evidence that the officer contracted COVID-19 from a source other than line of duty activity.

Section II

In addition, in the absence of evidence showing a different unrelated cause of death, WLEM generally will presume that the evidence shows a law enforcement officer who died while being treated for COVID-19 died as the direct and proximate result of COVID-19.

- A. This presumption may be overcome by competent medical evidence showing that COVID-19 was not a significant contributing factor in the death. For example, officers who test positive for COVID-19 exposure but are asymptomatic or show only mild symptoms and die of other causes will

not be presumed to have died of COVID-19 or in the line of duty due to COVID-19.

Section III

WLEM encourages individuals submitting cases for review to include documentation, such as shift or call logs, medical records and other documents that support the presumptions stated in sections I and II above.

As the WLEM receives applications for inclusion on the memorial based on COVID-19 exposure, it will work closely with survivors, officers, and agencies to obtain whatever evidence may be needed to support each application, through all available information, including incident reports and related documents. The WLEM will give due consideration to any medical information and records submitted to it.

Section IV

Due to the unique nature of this disease, WLEM intends to apply the above criteria to deaths attributed COVID-19 as it exists now and all medically recognized adaptations and strains that may develop in the future. However, this policy does not universally apply to other communicable diseases or illnesses that may afflict law enforcement officers. Each such incident shall be reviewed and evaluated on its own merits.

Approved by WLEM Board of Directors May 15, 2020