

**Message to Town Clerks**  
**October 2007**

The EDRS is being created in-house by a team including the Department of Health's Information Technology staff, EDRS Project staff, Vital Records staff, and others. The project is also involving stakeholders representing the eventual users of the EDRS in development of the system requirements and testing the application. We are working hard to create a system that is comprehensive and easy-to-use right from the start.

As the project has progressed we have found it necessary to reassess the timelines for rollout. We now anticipate that the launch of Release 1 will occur sometime in the summer 2008 rather than in January 2008. In order to minimize confusion with this transition, we have decided to also hold off on introducing the new death certificate until the EDRS is ready.

For Release 1 of the EDRS the primary users of the system will be internal VDH users (Vital Records and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner), however, we plan to include some town clerks as pilot sites. While we would like to open this to as many towns as are interested, we will likely need to limit enrollment during this pilot phase. Should this be the case, our priority will be to first include hospital towns and others towns that experience a high volume of deaths. Following this pilot phase, the EDRS will be available to all towns with a second release anticipated to occur later in 2008.

We are continuing to take names of Town Clerks and assistants wishing to pre-enroll in the system and will keep you posted as timelines and plans become more concrete. We will also be providing training on changing business processes to all clerks prior to the roll-out of the application and new certificate.

It is our goal to assure that you are fully prepared and supported as we make these changes and you begin to use the EDRS. So, please feel free to contact us at any time with comments or questions.

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