

May 15, 2020

COVID-19 Media Availability

PARTICIPANTS- CDPHE



- Dr. Eric France, Chief Medical Officer
- Dr. Rachel Herlihy, State Epidemiologist
- Kirk Bol, Manager, Vital Statistics
- Alex Quintana, State Registrar, Vital Records

Media questions and answers *Moderator: Mariah La Rue, CDPHE*

COVID-19 DEATHS

Deaths caused
by COVID-19



Deaths among people
who had COVID-19
at the time of death;
cause(s) may or may not
have been COVID-19
(report to CDC)

DEATH REPORTING PROCESS

1. Death occurs and is reported to the state in 2 ways:
 - a. by a physician, coroner/medical examiner on a death certificate through the routine death certificate registration process.
 - b. by health care providers, coroners, and local public health to the state epidemiologists.
2. State Vital Statistics shares information from death certificates with the epi/surveillance team, including deaths among cases, and death certificates identifying COVID-19 as the cause of death.
3. The state reports deaths to CDC: 1. All deaths through vital records registration and 2. COVID-19 deaths through epidemiologist reporting.

CDC-APPROVED CASE DEFINITION

Confirmed & Probable Cases

As of April 14, 2020, CDC case counts and death counts include both confirmed and probable cases and deaths. This change was made to reflect an [interim COVID-19 position statement](#)   issued by the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists on April 5, 2020. The position statement included a case definition and made COVID-19 a nationally notifiable disease.

A confirmed case or death is defined by meeting confirmatory laboratory evidence for COVID-19.

A probable case or death is defined by one of the following:

- Meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19
- Meeting presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria OR epidemiologic evidence
- Meeting vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID19

EXAMPLE DEATH CERTIFICATE

CAUSE OF DEATH (See instructions and examples)		Approximate interval: Onset to death
<p>32. PART I. Enter the <u>chain of events</u>—diseases, injuries, or complications—that directly caused the death. DO NOT enter terminal events such as cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or ventricular fibrillation without showing the etiology. DO NOT ABBREVIATE. Enter only one cause on a line. Add additional lines if necessary.</p> <p>IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) → a. <u>Acute respiratory distress syndrome</u></p> <p>Due to (or as a consequence of):</p> <p>b. <u>Pneumonia</u></p> <p>Due to (or as a consequence of):</p> <p>c. <u>COVID-19</u></p> <p>Due to (or as a consequence of):</p> <p>d. _____</p> <p>Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to the cause listed on line a. Enter the UNDERLYING CAUSE (disease or injury that initiated the events resulting in death) LAST</p>		<p>2 days</p> <p>10 days</p> <p>10 days</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>PART II. Enter other <u>significant conditions contributing to death</u> but not resulting in the underlying cause given in PART I.</p>		<p>33. WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>35. DID TOBACCO USE CONTRIBUTE TO DEATH?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Probably</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>		<p>34. WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE THE CAUSE OF DEATH? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>36. IF FEMALE:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not pregnant within past year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant at time of death</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not pregnant, but pregnant within 42 days of death</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not pregnant, but pregnant 43 days to 1 year before death</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown if pregnant within the past year</p>		<p>37. MANNER OF DEATH</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Investigation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Could not be determined</p>

ICD-10 DEATH REPORTING

- COVID-19 deaths are identified using a new ICD-10 code.
- When COVID-19 is reported as a **cause of death** — or when it is listed as a “probable” or “presumed” cause — the death is coded as U07.1.
- This can include cases with or without laboratory confirmation.

CDC GUIDANCE- CAUSE OF DEATH

“

When COVID-19 is reported as a cause of death on the death certificate, it is coded and counted as a death due to COVID-19. COVID-19 should not be reported on the death certificate if it did not cause or contribute to the death.

”

CDC ON DATA QUALITY

“ Getting high quality cause-of-death information can be challenging, especially during emergencies. Certifiers may be faced with heavy workloads, may not have access to complete information about the death, or may not be well trained in how to prepare quality cause-of-death statements. ”



EVERY NUMBER HAS A NAME

COLORADO REMEMBERS COVID-19 VICTIMS

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GOVERNOR
JARED POLIS

Q & A



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