

Reporting COVID-19 Deaths

8-2022

COVID-19 Death Case Definition

A **novel coronavirus-associated death** is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness that was confirmed to be COVID-19 by an appropriate laboratory test. There should be no period of complete recovery between the date of COVID-19 diagnosis and the date of death.

A death should NOT be reported if any of the following are true:

1. There is no laboratory or other diagnostic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 virus infection
2. Novel coronavirus illness is followed by full recovery to baseline health status prior to death
3. After review and consultation there is an alternative agreed upon cause of death

Laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection can be from pre- or post-mortem clinical specimens.

COVID-19 Death Case Definition

Guidance for implementation of COVID-19 associated deaths case definition:

- ❖ This is a SURVEILLANCE case definition, not a medical definition.
- ❖ A death certificate is NOT needed. Under North Carolina's current surveillance case definition, it is possible both for someone to meet the case definition to be counted as a COVID-19 associated death and not have COVID-19 listed on the death certificate, and for someone to have COVID-19 on their death certificate and not be counted as a COVID-19 death. The determination of whether a case is a COVID-19 associated death for surveillance purposes is a public health decision, while the causes of death on the death certificate is the determination of the physician or medical examiner.
 - COVID-19 does not have to be a direct cause of death for a death to be COVID-19 associated. The key question is: would this person have died at this time if they had not had COVID-19? Or did COVID-19 in some way hasten their death? If they might have lived longer, then it is a COVID-19 associated death.
 - If a person is mentally or physically incapacitated and unable to be interviewed or the interview is questionable, then symptoms of COVID are difficult to determine. This should be counted as a death unless there was another non-COVID-19 cause of death (e.g. trauma).
- ❖ If you determine a case is not a COVID-19 death, documentation should be provided in the notes or the discharge summary or death report can be attached to the event if they are available.

Updating an event to a COVID death

- ❖ 3 Steps to updating an event to a death
 1. Update the Clinical Outcome in the Clinical Package
 2. Update the Person information in the Person Tab
 3. Update the Disease event

Clinical package – Clinical Outcome

- ❖ **Clinical Outcomes:** If the person has died from COVID-19, update the fields:
 - Clinical Outcome to Died
 - Died from this Illness = Yes
 - Location of Death, State and County where the person died

## Clinical outcome	Died ▾
## Died from this illness	Yes ▾
## Location of death	Hospital inpatient ▾
## Patient died in North Carolina	Yes ▾
## County of death	Wake County ▾
## Date of Death (update in Person Tab)	

Person Tab- Update with Death

- ❖ Update Date of Death in Person Tab

Edit Person	
First Name:	COVID
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	Test
Suffix:	
Maiden/Other Name:	
Alias:	
Birth Date:	01/02/1982
Death Date:	08/18/2022
Living Status:	Dead
Gender:	Male

- ❖ Clinical Tab is updated

## Clinical outcome	Died
## Died from this illness	Yes
## Location of death	Hospital inpatient
## Patient died in North Carolina	Yes
## County of death	Wake County
## Date of Death (update in Person Tab)	08/18/2022

Update Disease Event to Coronavirus Death

- ❖ For patients that die of COVID-19, change the event Disease to Coronavirus Death

Event Summary	
Basic Information	
Event ID:	170002742
Disease:	Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Person:	COVID Test Birth Date: 01/02/1982 (40 Male) Phone: (919) 555-6666
Type:	Interactive
Investigation Status:	Open
Linked Events/Contacts:	1 linked event(s)/contact(s) (View)
Attachments:	0 attachment(s) (Add)
Notifications:	Patient marked as died from this illness, please use the "Edit Event Properties" to change the disease to a Coronavirus Death (COVID-19D)
	Classification: Unspecified
	Event is in workflows (View List)
	County of residence: Wake County
	Earliest COVID-19 Diagnosis Date: 08/18/2022
	Linked outbreak: Wake COVID-19 Random Outbreak August 2022 (Open)
Edit Event Properties 	

From the event dashboard, click the “Edit Event Properties” button

Update Disease Event to Coronavirus Death

❖ Edit Event Properties

Edit Event Properties - COVID Test - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Event Information

Event ID: 170002742

Change Disease To:

Person:

Status:

Change Status To:

Note:

Category:

Note Type:

Deduplication Status:

1. From the dropdown selection for “Change Disease to”,
2. Select ‘Coronavirus death (COVID-19D)’
3. Then click the “Save” button

Update Disease Event to Coronavirus Death

- ❖ Coronavirus Death (COVID-19D) will display

Event Summary	
Basic Information	
Event ID:	170002742
Disease:	Coronavirus death (COVID-19D)
Person:	COVID Test Birth Date: 01/02/1982 (40 Male) Phone: (919) 555-6666
Type:	Interactive
Investigation Status:	Open
Linked Events/Contacts:	1 linked event(s)/contact(s) (View)
Attachments:	0 attachment(s) (Add)
Notifications:	Classification: Unspecified
	Event is in workflows [View List]
	County of residence: Wake County
	Earliest COVID-19 Diagnosis Date: 08/18/2022
	Linked outbreak: Wake COVID-19 Random Outbreak August 2022 [Open]
Edit Event Properties	

Administrative pkg – Report to the State – (+) PCR labs

- ❖ *For COVID-19*, for events confirmed with a positive (+) PCR lab test, when you report the event to the State, please assign to the “State Disease Registrar” with the reason “Assign to the State” and ensure that you have set the classification status to “Confirmed”

## Date Assigned-Reassigned	08/18/2022 Add New	
## Group: (You cannot change your group selection unless you clear this entry by erasing the Date Assigned)	State Disease Registrar	<i>Local patient identifier</i> <input type="text"/>
## Select the reason for the assignment/reassignment	Assign to State	
^ Authorized Reporter	<input type="text"/>	<i>Phone number</i> <input type="text"/>
## Classification status	Confirmed	
Notes	<input type="text"/>	

Administrative pkg – Report to the State – (+) Ag labs

- ❖ *For COVID-19*, for events confirmed with a positive (+) Antigen lab test, when you report the event to the State, please assign to the “State Disease Registrar” with the reason “Assign to the State” and ensure that you have set the classification status to “Probable”

## Date Assigned-Reassigned	08/18/2022 Add New	
## Group: (You cannot change your group selection unless you clear this entry by erasing the Date Assigned)	State Disease Registrar	Local patient identifier <input type="text"/>
## Select the reason for the assignment/reassignment	Assign to State	
^ Authorized Reporter	<input type="text"/>	Phone number <input type="text"/>
## Classification status	Probable	
Notes	<input type="text"/>	

Administrative pkg – Report to the State (+) Ag vs (+) PCR labs

- ❖ *For COVID-19*, if you have a positive (+) Ag lab AND a positive (+) PCR/RNA/NAA lab, the PCR is confirmatory and the final classification status for the event is ‘confirmed’
- ❖ If you have a positive (+) Ag lab AND a negative (-) PCR/RNA/NAA lab, the final classification status for the event is ‘probable’
- ❖ If you have a lab result that is ‘unsatisfactory’ or ‘not performed’, the final classification status for the event is ‘does not meet criteria’
- ❖ If you have a lab result that is ‘indeterminate’ or ‘inconclusive’, and no documentation that the patient retested, the final classification status for the event is ‘does not meet criteria’





Thank you for joining today!

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