

Reporting COVID Deaths to the State

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COVID – Deduplicate Links

Prior to submitting an event to the State for review and report to CDC, you need to make sure that all person and/or event deduplications have been completed

Reminders:

- If the person is a duplicate, do NOT deduplicate. Please send an email to the NCEDSS Helpdesk to request deduplication
 - Ensure that you have updated the person information, otherwise, the Helpdesk will not know which information is correct
- If the event is a duplicate and you have been trained, you may deduplicate the event
 - If you have not been trained to deduplicate events, please send an email to the NCEDSS Helpdesk

For additional information about deduplication please see

<https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/nccovid/PersonvsEventDeduplication.pdf>

COVID – 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 – 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.

COVID death – Updating an event

- 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, the following fields are required:
 - 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	Mecklenburg County ▾
## Date of Death (update in Person Tab)	04/20/2022

Person Tab- Add the Date of Death

- Update Date of Death in Person Tab -this updates the Clinical question package

Edit Person

Start Date: 05/17/2022

End Date: 01/01/2030

First Name: Hot

Middle Name:

Last Name: Tamales

Suffix:

Maiden/Other Name:

Alias:

Birth Date: 07/01/1950

Death Date: 04/20/2022

Living Status: Dead

Event Data Lab Results Concerns **Persons** Tasks

Persons			
Name	Gender	Birth Date	Av
▶ Hot Tamales	Male	07/01/1950	10

Edit Person

Update Disease Event – Coronavirus Death

- Update the event Disease to Coronavirus Death
 - From the event dashboard, click the “Edit Event Properties” button

Event Summary

Basic Information	
Event ID:	COVID_117544052
Disease:	Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Person:	Hot Tamales Birth Date: 07/01/1950 (71 Male)
Type:	Interactive
Investigation Status:	Open
Linked Events/Contacts:	1 linked event(s)/contact(s) (View)
Attachments:	0 attachment(s) (Add)
Notifications:	Classification: Unspecified
	County of residence: Mecklenburg County
	Earliest COVID-19 Diagnosis Date:
	Linked outbreak: Mecklenburg COVID-19 White Oak Manor of Charlotte Outbreak April 2021 (Open)

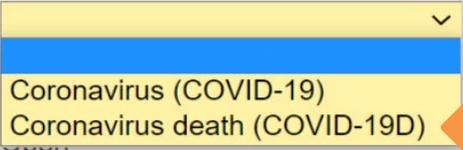
[Edit Event Properties](#) ←

Update Disease Event – Coronavirus Death

Edit Event Properties - Hot Tamales - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Event Information

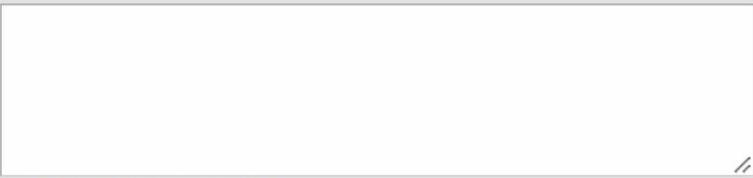
Event ID: COVID_117544052

Change Disease To: 

Person:

Status: Open

Change Status To: 

Note: 
2500 characters left

Category: Generic 

Note Type: Public 

Deduplication Status: Done 

1 

2 

3 

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

Update Disease Event – Coronavirus Death

- Coronavirus Death (COVID-19D) will display

Event Summary	
Basic Information	
Event ID:	COVID_117544052
Disease:	Coronavirus death (COVID-19D)
Person:	Hot Tamales Birth Date: 07/01/1950 (71 Male)
Type:	Interactive
Investigation Status:	Open
Linked Events/Contacts:	1 linked event(s)/contact(s) (View)
Attachments:	0 attachment(s) (Add)
Notifications:	Classification: Unspecified
	County of residence: Mecklenburg County
	Earliest COVID-19 Diagnosis Date:
	Linked outbreak: Mecklenburg COVID-19 White Oak Manor of Charlotte Outbreak April 2021 [Open]
Edit Event Properties	

Person Information – Key fields

Required: Some sort of address is required, at least city, county, state; Try to get street address if possible

Contact Information			
Type	Address	County	Country
Home * Primary	Charlotte, NC 28201	Mecklenburg County	USA

^ Recommended: If the person does not have a street address due to homelessness, please update the ‘Currently homeless’ field to ‘Yes’ in the Demographic question package

^ Recommended: Race and Hispanic ethnicity is not required, but if available, please enter

^ Race	<input type="text"/>
^ Hispanic ethnicity	<input type="text"/>

*If you are unable to obtain the race and/or ethnicity, please leave the field(s) blank

Person Information – Key fields

Certain required fields are associated with the person and can only be updated by accessing the person tab within the event

Required: Name, Gender, Birth Date, Death Date (if applicable)

Demographic Information (View History)	
Name:	Tamales, Hot
Maiden/Other Name:	
Alias:	
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	07/01/1950
Death Date:	04/20/2022
Living Status:	Dead
Age:	71
Social Security Number:	

Demographic package – Key fields

- ^ Recommended: Employment Information section
 - o What kind of work does this person do?
 - o Employer name
 - o In what kind of business or industry does the person work in?

Employment Information	
^ What kind of work does this person do?	<input type="text"/>
^ Employer name	<input type="text"/>
^ What kind of business or industry does this person work in?	<input type="text"/>

Administrative package – Key fields

Required: Disease Report Information section

- Please ensure each question is completed correctly

Disease Report Information	
## Initial Source of Report to Public Health	Laboratory <input type="text"/>
Laboratory name	zz_Other <input type="text"/>
If other, specify	Fictional Lab <input type="text"/>
## Date of Initial Report to Public Health (Required)	04/25/2022 <input type="text"/>
## Initial method of report	Paper lab report <input type="text"/>

*Reminder the initial method of report should NOT be ELR or eCR if you manually created and entered the event

Required: NC County of Residence for the Event section

- Please ensure the event is assigned to the correct county for reporting

NC County of Residence for the Event	
If a different county is investigating this event, the county of residence must share this event. If patient is not a NC resident, enter the NC investigating county here.	
## NC County of Residence for the Event	Mecklenburg County <input type="text"/>

Administrative package – Key fields

Required: Investigation Trail section

- When you are ready to assign the event to the state you will add a new block in the Investigation trail
 - Assign to the ‘State Disease Registrar’ with the reason ‘Assign to the State’ and ensure that you have Selected the correct classification status

Investigation Trail: Add a new entry for each group to which the event transfers during the investigation		
## Date Assigned-Reassigned	04/25/2022	
## Group: (You cannot change your group selection unless you clear this entry by erasing the Date Assigned)	Mecklenburg COVID	Local patient identifier
## Select the reason for the assignment/reassignment	Original/Initial Assignment	
^ Authorized Reporter	CCrowley	Phone number (919) 733-3419
## Classification status	Confirmed	
Notes		
## Date Assigned-Reassigned	04/29/2022 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
## Select the reason for the assignment/reassignment	Assign to State	
^ Authorized Reporter		Phone number
## Classification status	Confirmed	
Notes		

The dropdown menu for Classification status in the second entry is open, showing the following options: Unspecified, Contact, Under investigation, Suspect, Probable, Confirmed, and Does not meet criteria. The 'Confirmed' option is highlighted in blue.

Classification Status – Cases

Users must always review lab results in the Lab Result tab to determine if the Ordering Lab/Ordering Facility is AT HOME test

- If the lab result is a PCR/NAA/RNA+ then the classification status = **Confirmed** – UNLESS the ordering lab/ facility states AT HOME test
- If the lab result is a Ag+ then the classification status = **Probable** – UNLESS the ordering lab/ facility states AT HOME test
- If the lab result ordering lab/ facility states AT HOME test, then the classification status = **Suspect**, regardless of what kind of lab test it is
- If there is a combination of tests, any test result that would be classified as ‘Confirmed’, will take priority as the classification status in the Investigation Trail over ‘Probable’ and ‘Suspect’ labs

Classification Status – Not a Case

- 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**’
- If you have a person who is an out of state resident, the final classification status for the event is ‘**Does not meet criteria**’
 - For more information on interstate notifications, please see:
<https://epi.ncpublichealth.info/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/nccovid/Interstate%20Notifications.pdf?ver=1.2>

Questions



For additional questions or assistance, please contact

Help Desk: NCEDSSHelpDesk@dhhs.nc.gov
(919)715-5548 or toll-free (877)625-9259

Training: NCEDSSTrainings@dhhs.nc.gov