

**From:** [EOC PIO](#)  
**To:** [Maxford Nelsen](#)  
**Subject:** Definition of COVID-19 Death  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:27:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Thank you for your question. Benton-Franklin Health District does not report a COVID death until a death certificate can be verified. Our policy is similar to what you described for Thurston County. An individual is counted as a COVID-19 death if they were lab confirmed positive for COVID-19 and died due to health complications related to the illness. We do have one death from very early in the pandemic when we did not have enough testing available that was classified as an epidemiological linked death.

Let us know if you have additional questions.  
At your service,

**Malvina A. Goodwin, RDN, CD**

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