

From: [ComHealth](#)
To: [Maxford Nelsen](#)
Subject: FW: Counting COVID-19 deaths
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:53:28 AM

Maxford,

Please see below response from our Health Officer.

Thank-you,

Molly M. Corvino RDN
Northeast Tri County Health District
Community Health Specialist
mcorvino@netchd.org
Direct Line: 509 563-8027
Fax: 509 684-9878



From: Sam Artzis
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:46 AM
To: ComHealth <ComHealth@netchd.org>
Cc: Judy Hutton <jhutton@netchd.org>; Molly Corvino <mcorvino@netchd.org>; Matt Schanz <mschanz@netchd.org>
Subject: Re: Counting COVID-19 deaths

Maxford,
Our method is similar to Thurston County as you defined.
Sam

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 9, 2020, at 16:24, ComHealth <ComHealth@netchd.org> wrote:

From: Maxford Nelsen [<mailto:MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:26 PM

To: ComHealth <ComHealth@netchd.org>

Subject: Counting COVID-19 deaths

Northeast Tri County Health District Staff,

I have a question regarding the District's method for counting COVID-19 deaths that I hope you can help me with. Specifically, what criteria does the District use when counting a death as related to COVID-19?

I've so far identified two different methods used by various public health agencies in Washington.

The statewide COVID-19 fatality count publicized by the Washington Department of Health includes any person who tested positive for COVID-19 and subsequently died, even if the death certificate made no mention of COVID-19 as playing a role in the death.

However, I know some county health departments only count deaths of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 *and* died for reasons related to the virus. In [Thurston County](#), for instance, "[a]n individual is counted as a COVID-19 death if they were diagnosed with COVID-19 and died due to health complications related to the illness."

Which method does the District use? Or does it use a different method entirely?

Thanks in advance for your time.

Best,

Maxford Nelsen

Director of Labor Policy | Freedom Foundation

MNelsen@FreedomFoundation.com

360.956.3482 | PO Box 552 Olympia, WA 98507

FreedomFoundation.com