

From: [ACHD](#)
To: [Maxford Nelsen](#)
Subject: RE: Counting COVID-19 deaths
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:36:38 PM

Mr. Nelson,

Asotin County has had 2 COVID-19 related deaths. Health Districts don't determine cause of death. The attending physicians determine cause. Your statement regarding how the Washington State Department of Health counts COVID-19 deaths is NOT accurate.

Asotin County Health District does not have "a method"—the decedent's death certificate notes their cause of death and we report the information.

Brady Woodbury, MPH
Administrator
Asotin County Health District

Prevent | Promote | Protect

From: Maxford Nelsen [mailto:MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:57 PM
To: ACHD
Subject: RE: Counting COVID-19 deaths

Just checking in on this. Thanks.

Maxford Nelsen

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From: Maxford Nelsen
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:21 PM
To: achd@ac-hd.org
Subject: Counting COVID-19 deaths

Asotin County Health District Staff,

I have a question regarding Asotin County Health 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 ACHD County use? Or does it use a different method entirely?

Thanks in advance for your time.

Best,

Maxford Nelsen

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