

From: [Communications Web](#)
To: [Maxford Nelsen](#)
Subject: RE: Counting COVID-19 deaths
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:43:49 AM

Hello Mr. Nelsen,

Thank you for sending us your question. Spokane Regional Health District is following the state's definition when counting COVID-19 related deaths. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 are counted, unless the death is due to a cause clearly not related to COVID-19 disease processes. (For example, if a person tested positive but dies in an auto accident.) For further clarification around the state's definition, we recommend that you contact the Washington State Department of Health.

Thank you,

[Communications](#) | [Spokane Regional Health District](#)
communications_web@srhd.org | srhd.org

From: Maxford Nelsen <MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Communications Web <communications_web@srhd.org>
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 1:13 PM
To: communications_web@srhd.org
Subject: Counting COVID-19 deaths

SRHD Staff,

I have a question regarding the Spokane Regional 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 SRHD use? Or does it use a different method entirely?

Thanks in advance for your time.

Best,

Maxford Nelsen

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