

**From:** [Katie Oien Lindstrom](#)  
**To:** [Maxford Nelsen](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Counting COVID-19 deaths  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 1:46:17 PM

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Hi Maxwell,

We would use the same method as described by Thurston County (those who died due to health complications related to the illness.)

Thanks,  
Katie

On Jun 9, 2020 1:31 PM, Maxford Nelsen <MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com> wrote:

Ms. Lindstrom ,

I have a question regarding Pacific County's method for counting COVID-19 deaths that I hope you can help me with. Specifically, what criteria does the county 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 Pacific County use? Or does it use a different method entirely?

Thanks in advance for your time.

Best,

## **Maxford Nelsen**

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