

From: [Ross McDowell](#)
To: [Maxford Nelsen](#); [David Windom](#)
Subject: Re: Information Request
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:43:51 PM

Mr. Nelsen,

Mason County Health Departments only count death(s) of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 and died for reasons related to the virus, like Thurston County.

Thanks,
Ross

From: Maxford Nelsen <MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:38:17 PM
To: David Windom
Cc: Ross McDowell
Subject: RE: Information Request

Thanks, Ross.

Mr. Windom: I understand things are probably unusually busy for you these days, but I'd appreciate it if you can help me determine Mason County's method for counting COVID-19 deaths. 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 Mason County use? Or does it use a different method entirely?

Thanks in advance for your time.

Maxford Nelsen

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From: Ross McDowell <Rmcdowell@co.mason.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Maxford Nelsen <MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com>; David Windom <DWindom@co.mason.wa.us>
Subject: Re: Information Request

Hello Mr. Nelsen,

I have attached David Windom's e-mail address to this e-mail. I will also contact him tomorrow and remind him to make contact with you.

Sorry,
Ross

From: Maxford Nelsen <MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:26:17 PM
To: Ross McDowell
Subject: RE: Information Request

Hi Ross,

Just following up on this. It's been a week since my first email and I've yet to hear from Mr. Windom. I'd reach out to him directly if I had his contact info. Would you mind putting us in touch?

Thanks,

Maxford Nelsen

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From: Ross McDowell <Rmcdowell@co.mason.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Maxford Nelsen <MNelsen@freedomfoundation.com>
Subject: Information Request

Hello Mr. Nelsen,

I am going to defer this question to our Public Health Director, David Windom. David is currently out of the office until tomorrow. He was also copied on this return e-mail and will address your e-mail question and answer it.

Thanks,
Ross

G. Ross McDowell

Mason County

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