



Nevada Public Health Surveillance Death Definition: COVID-19

Background:

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services has finalized the COVID-19 death definitions to be implemented across the state. The use of standardized death criteria ensures consistency and accuracy in data reporting in Nevada. This definition is current as of October 19, 2020, but is subject to change as new information about COVID-19 becomes available. **This definition is to be used specifically for Public Health Surveillance and should not inform clinical decisions.**

The following instances describe when a death should be considered a confirmed or probable death of an individual who had COVID-19, regardless if COVID-19 contributed to that death or not.* The laboratory criteria used to classify cases must align with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) case definitions, found [here](#).

COVID-19 Death:

- Decedents with a positive COVID-19 lab report (\leq 30 days from death)
- Decedents with a death certificate that lists a COVID-19-related term as a cause of death in Part I
 - COVID-related terms include names for COVID-19, such as SARS-CoV-2, coronavirus, coronavirus-19, etc.
- Decedents with a pending cause of death that had a positive lab test within 30 days of death AND symptoms indicative of COVID-19 (per investigation or medical report)
- Decedents with a death certificate that does not specifically list a COVID-19-related term that had a positive lab results \leq 30 days before death and/or died within 30 days of COVID-19 symptom onset AND died in a manner of death deemed to be 'natural' on the death certificate
- Deaths due to non-natural causes (e.g. accidental, intentional self-harm, homicide) should not be counted as a COVID-19-related death even if the deceased had a confirmatory positive lab test within 30 days of death.

COVID-19 Probable Death:

- Cases that meet the Probable COVID-19 case definition (i.e., meets clinical criteria and has an epidemiologic link OR has presumptive lab evidence and meets clinical criteria or has an epidemiologic link) and have subsequently died, as identified through case investigation
- Death certificate that lists a COVID-19-related term in Part II where there is no available evidence of a confirmatory test result (positive or negative)

* Meets clinical criteria **AND** epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2.

For More Information: Please contact DPBH at dpbhepi@health.nv.gov or call (775)-684-5911 M-F 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The after-hours line can be contacted at (775)-400-0333.