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DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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Nevada Public Health Surveillance Death Definition: COVID-19

Summary of Major Changes: Updates were made July 12, 2021 because COVID-19 testing is no longer in short supply. Moving forward, a positive PCR COVID-19 test will be required for a death to be considered a confirmed COVID-19 death.

Background:

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services has finalized the COVID-19 death definition to be implemented across the state. The use of standardized death criteria ensures consistency and accuracy in data reporting in Nevada. This definition was updated July 12, 2021 and 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 death of an individual who had COVID-19. 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 PCR COVID-19 lab report (≤ 30 days from death or post-mortem)
- Decedents with a death certificate that lists a COVID-19-related term as a cause of death in Part I and have a history of a positive PCR COVID-19 lab report
 - 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 PCR 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 PCR lab result ≤ 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
- Exception: Deaths due to non-natural causes (e.g. accidental, intentional self-harm, homicide) should not be counted as a COVID-19 death even if the deceased had a confirmatory positive lab test within 30 days of death

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.