

Webinar



Certifying and Coding COVID-19 as Cause of Death

June 18, 2020

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
AMERICAS

Agenda



Objective: Provide instructions for certification and classification of deaths related to COVID-19, based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

- **Opening remarks.** Dr. Sebastián García Saisó, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/EIH)
- **International guidelines for certifying and coding COVID-19 as cause of death.** Dr. Vilma Gawryszewski, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/EIH)
- **Correct filling of death certificate and the selection of underlying cause of death.** Ms. Angela Hinds, The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).
- **Examples of certification of deaths due to COVID-19.** Mr. Martin Jermaine, Ministry of Health & Wellness, Jamaica.
- **Questions and answers.** Dr. Patricia Soliz, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/EIH)

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International guidelines for certifying and coding COVID-19 as cause of death.

Dr. Vilma Gawryszewski, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/EIH)

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The importance of proper death certification during the pandemic



- High quality information is more needed than ever.
- Death certificate data is essential to develop policy response during and after pandemic.
- It provides information to the public, health professionals, and decision makers about the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It allows to identify who is dying, where they occurred, and what their associated medical conditions were.
- It is used to guide disease surveillance at local level, plan medical resources and quarantine measures.

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COVID-19 undercount



- New disease
- Deaths at home
- Impact of the pandemic on health systems
- Availability of laboratory tests
- Incorrect filling of the Death Certificate
- Lack of knowledge of the concept of Basic Cause of Death
- Different reporting standards

WHO definition of death due to COVID-19



“ A death due to COVID-19 is a death resulting in a clinically compatible, probable or confirmed, COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that can not be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no complete period of recovery between COVID-19 illness and death.

A death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer) and should be counted independently of preexisting conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19”.

Note: Generally is best to avoid acronyms and abbreviations but in is this case is recommended to use COVID-19.

Emergency use ICD-10 codes for COVID-19 disease*



An emergency ICD-10 code of **'U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified'** is assigned to a disease diagnosis of COVID-19 confirmed by laboratory testing.

An emergency ICD-10 code of **'U07.2 COVID-19, virus not identified'** is assigned to a clinical or epidemiological diagnosis of COVID-19 where laboratory confirmation is inconclusive or not available.

Both **U07.1** and **U07.2** may be used for mortality coding as cause of death and also for morbidity coding purposes

* International guidelines for certification and classification (coding) of COVID-19 as cause of death

<https://www.paho.org/en/documents/international-guidelines-certification-and-classification-coding-covid-19-cause-death>

ICD-11 International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision

The global standard for diagnostic health information

RA01.0:

Code for the confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

RA01.1:

Code for clinical diagnosis (suspected or probable) of COVID-19.

ICD Definition for Underlying Cause of Death



The disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death

OR

The circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury

In accordance with the rules of the International Classification of Diseases

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COVID-19 Epidemiological Situation in the Region of the Americas

Cumulative cases (20 Jan - 17 Jun 2020)

- Total cases: 3,899,859
- Total deaths: 205,555
- Recovered cases: 1,536,687

Source: PAHO COVID-19 Regional HUB (information from 54 countries and territories)

<https://paho-covid19-response-who.hub.arcgis.com/>

Type of transmission

- Community transmission: 21 countries
- Sporadic cases: 12 countries and territories
- Cluster of cases: 17 countries and territories
- No cases: 4 countries and territories

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Country/Territory	Transmission Type	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Recovered
Belize	Sporadic cases	21	2	16
Anguilla	Sporadic cases	3	-	3
Antigua and Barbuda	Clusters of cases	26	3	22
Aruba	No cases	101	3	98
Bahamas (the)	Clusters of cases	104	11	72
Barbados	Clusters of cases	97	7	83
Bermuda	Clusters of cases	144	9	127
Cayman Islands	Clusters of cases	187	1	115
Curacao	Sporadic cases	22	1	19
Dominica	Clusters of cases	18	-	16
French Guiana	Community transmission	1,421	5	619
Grenada	Clusters of cases	23	-	22
Guadeloupe	Clusters of cases	171	14	157
Guyana	Clusters of cases	159	12	99
Haiti	Community transmission	4,441	76	24
Jamaica	Clusters of cases	621	10	430
Martinique	Clusters of cases	202	14	98
Montserrat	Sporadic cases	11	1	8
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sporadic cases	15	-	15
Saint Lucia	Sporadic cases	19	-	18
Saint Martin	Sporadic cases	42	3	36
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Sporadic cases	27	-	25
Sint Maarten	Sporadic cases	77	15	62
Suriname	Clusters of cases	236	6	48
Trinidad and Tobago	Sporadic cases	123	8	109
Turks and Caicos	Sporadic cases	12	1	10
Virgin Islands (UK)	Sporadic cases	8	1	7
Virgin Islands (US)	Clusters of cases	73	6	64

Distribution of cases and deaths by country in the Caribbean, as of 17 Jun 2020

Source: PAHO COVID-19 Regional HUB
<https://paho-covid19-response-who.hub.arcgis.com/>

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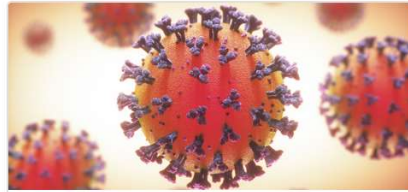


https://www.paho.org/es/temas/coronavirus/enfermedad-por-coronavirus-covid-19?gclid=CjwKCAjwIZf3BRABEiwA8Q0qq1tLpgc5uVp1eovZ0fzP_2oRzwUoWlGf592eauxlZXyQrdzIESuh-hoC92wQAvD_BwE



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OMS Website COVID-19



WHO Technical Guides



PAHO Technical Documents



WHO Questions | Answers
about COVID-19



Epidemiological
Alerts and Reports



COVID-19 & Health
Issues



Communication
material



Evidence portal



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Crédito: OPS/OMS

Many thanks!
Stay safe everyone!

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