Appendix B: Death Certificate Imagery

The CDC provides guidance for reporting deaths on a death certificate. The first image below from the CDC shows Part I (the four primary causes of death) and also part II (other significant conditions). This guidance applies to all death certificates, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the CDC recommends that states classify all death certificates where COVID-19 is present as a death related to the virus. While this information may be appropriate for monitoring the on-going pandemic, it may present marginally inflated death data to the general public. (See R5).

The WHO provides guidance on completing a death certificate for COVID-19 as well as guidance for what is not a COVID-19 death. The second and third images from the WHO shows both of these examples, respectively. The third image shows that deaths with COVID-19 as an "other significant condition" is not a COVID-19 death.

CDC Death Certificate

![Image of a CDC death certificate]

Source: CDC
WHO Death Certificates

Frame A: Medical data: Part 1 and 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease or condition directly leading to death</th>
<th>Cause of death</th>
<th>Time interval from onset to death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute respiratory distress syndrome</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 (not positive)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>14 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manner of death:
- Disease
- Accident
- Intentional self harm
- War
- Unknown

Note: This is a typical course with a certificate that has been filled in correctly. Please remember to indicate whether the virus causing COVID-19 had been identified in the defunct.

Frame A: Medical data: Part 1 and 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease or condition directly leading to death</th>
<th>Cause of death</th>
<th>Time interval from onset to death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypovolemic shock</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>79.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic dissection</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>525.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle accident</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>2 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manner of death:
- Disease
- Accident
- Legal intervention
- War
- Unknown

Note: Code all entries in Part 1 and 2, and in this example select motor vehicle accident (V89.2) as underlying cause of death. Step SP3 applies as causes have been reported on more than one line in Part 1 and the condition reported first on the lowest used line, motor vehicle accident (V89.2), can cause all the conditions, traumatic aortic dissection (S25.0) and traumatic hypovolemic shock (79.4), mentioned on the lines above. [See ICD-10 2016 and later, Volume 2, Section 4.2.1].

Source: WHO