



COLUMBIA COUNTY CORONER' S OFFICE



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MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Jeremy Reese-Columbia County Coroner

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For Immediate Release

Re: Columbia County COVID Fatality Update

Columbia County Coroner Jeremy Reese is releasing the following statement regarding the deaths associated with COVID 19 reported within Columbia County to the Coroner's Office.

Line 1	Number of Deaths In Columbia County reported by PA DOH on 04/23/2020	14
Line 2	Number of New COVID Positive Deaths Reported to Columbia County Coroner since 04/23/2020	3
Line 3	Total Number of COVID Positive Deaths Reported to Columbia County Coroner to Date	13

Definition of Statistics:

Line 1: PA Department of Health Number of Deaths for Columbia County released daily by the PA DOH. This includes Columbia County residents who died within the County and Columbia County residents who died at locations outside of the County but reside Columbia County

Line 2: New deaths occurring within the geographical jurisdiction of the Columbia County that have been referred to the Columbia County Coroner for review and/or reporting since the prior public release of information. This number does not reflect Columbia County residents who died outside of the County.

Line 3: Total number of deaths occurring within the geographical jurisdiction of the Columbia County that have been referred to the Columbia Coroner for review and/or reporting. This number includes the number of cases in Line 2 in addition to previously reported cases to my office. This number does not reflect Columbia County residents who died outside of the County.

Summary of New Cases:

A 62 year old male who died in his home in South Centre Township on Sunday April 26th. The male was pronounced dead at the scene by a Deputy Coroner with the Coroner's Office. The investigation by the Deputy Coroner and Coroner Reese presented that the Decedent had symptoms consistent with COVID prior to his death and also had an increased risk of exposure through his employment. Based on the investigation findings Coroner Reese consulted with the Epidemiology Team at the PA Department of Health and COVID 19 testing was pursued through the PA Department of Health. Department of Health COVID testing results were received by this office on April 29th and confirmed the decedent to be COVID positive. This is the first case of COVID 19 confirmed in the death of a resident outside of a nursing home or hospital investigated by my office. Both the Department of Health and Coroner Reese have been in touch with family of the decedent to explain the risks of COVID exposure and the need to quarantine and seek testing if members of the decedent's family develop COVID symptoms.

A 100 year old female patient of the Berwick Retirement Village 1 who died on Wednesday April 29th. The decedent had a positive COVID 19 test and notable decline in her medical condition since her COVID diagnosis.

An 88 year old female inpatient at the Geisinger Bloomsburg Hospital who resided in Dauphin County and died at the hospital on Wednesday April 29th. While this death counts in the number of deaths referred to this office, it will not count in the Columbia County Department of Health numbers.

Additional Comments or Information:

The death of the 62 year old Male in South Centre Township is not connected to the death of the South Centre Township male at Geisinger Medical Center that Montour County Scott Lynn reported yesterday. Coroner Lynn and I reviewed the cases to confirm there was no correlation.

As previously noted there will be a difference in the number of deaths reported to my office and the number of deaths reported by the Department of Health due to locations of decedents residences, reporting status to Department of Health and other variables in reporting and data collection processes.