



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 05/08/2020	20
Line 2	Number of New COVID Positive Deaths Reported to Columbia County Coroner since 05/05/2020	2
Line 3	Total Number of COVID Positive Deaths Reported to Columbia County Coroner to Date	18

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 within 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 92 year old male who died on May 6th 2020 at the Berwick Retirement Village 1

An 82 year old Male who died on May 7th, 2020 at the Gardens at Orangeville.

Both decedents tested positive for COVID 19 and exhibited changes in health consistent with COVID 19 prior to their death based upon a review of the cases with the facility staff and Physicians involved in the care of the deceased.

Additional Comments or Information:

In addition to the COVID deaths, the Coroner's Office has also investigated 5 drug related fatalities in the County since March 20th. While there is no direct correlation from these drug related fatalities to COVID 19 and the Stay at Home restrictions associated with COVID 19, the potential increase of incidents of drug related deaths or a potential increase in Suicides is also a concern for our office as the Stay at Home order remains in place.

There are multiple phone numbers for resources to help those in our Community with Mental Health or Substance Abuse issues on the PA Department of Health Coronavirus webpage and on the Coroner's Office Facebook page. If you are in need of help or know of someone in need of help please reach out to these resources.