



CORONER'S COURT OF WA

When is a Covid-19 death reportable to the coroner?

A death that is due to COVID-19, or is probably due to COVID-19 will generally NOT need to be reported to the coroner

This is because the death is due to natural causes, and the probable cause of death is known.

The fact that COVID-19 is a notifiable disease under the [Public Health Act 2016 \(WA\)](#) does not make the death reportable to the coroner.

A death that is due to COVID-19, or is probably due to COVID-19, will ONLY be reportable to the coroner if the person was, immediately before death, held in care. Examples of persons held in care are:

- Persons held in custody under the [Prisons Act 1981](#), or held in the custody of a member of the Police Force, or held in a custodial place;
- An involuntary patient under [Mental Health Act 2014](#);
- A child the subject of a Protection Order under the [Children and Community Services Act 2004](#).

There are cases where a death is reportable to the coroner and the person also carries COVID-19, though the death is not due to COVID-19. These cases are not being reported by reason of COVID-19. Examples are:

- A person who dies as a result of a fall;
- A person who dies as a result of an assault.

Finally, there are cases where a person is found deceased at a location, and their doctor is unable to issue a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death because s/he does not have sufficient information about the person's medical history. These cases are reportable to the coroner, and the person may or may not have been carrying COVID-19.

General inquiries on reportable deaths may be directed to the Coroner's Court of Western Australia during Business Hours on (08) 9425 2900