



Reviewing and Collecting Data on Deaths During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Telling Each Story to Save Lives Nationally





KEY FUNDING PARTNERS

FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Center is funded in part by Cooperative Agreement Numbers UG7MC28482 and UG7MC31831 from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of an award totaling \$1,099,997 annually with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

HOUSEKEEPING

Before we get started

- This webinar is being recorded and will be available on the National Center's webpage (URL: www.ncfrp.org).
- Participants are muted. Use the question and answer box to ask questions.
- Due to the large number of participants, the speakers may be unable to answer all questions. Unanswered questions will be answered and posted with the recording.
- Contact the National Center (email: info@ncfrp.org) for any tech problems.





EVALUATION

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32BRMMX>

Diane Pilkey, RN, MPH

Welcome and Introductions

Senior Nurse Consultant

Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Health Resources and Service Administration





HRSA'S VISION FOR THE NATIONAL CENTER

IMPROVING SYSTEMS OF CARE AND OUTCOMES FOR MOTHERS, INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES

Assist state and community programs in:

- Understanding how CDR and FIMR reviews can be used to address issues related to adverse maternal, infant, child, and adolescent outcomes
- Improving the quality and effectiveness of CDR/FIMR processes
- Increasing the availability and use of data to inform prevention efforts and for national dissemination



Discussing the Impacts of COVID-19

Discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted how systems functioned and identify the impacts on the community. Additionally, discuss how the pandemic impacted the fatality review process.



Reviewing Deaths During COVID-19

Identify tools and specific questions to ask during the review process, stressing the importance of promoting resiliency for individuals and the community.



Creating a Community Timeline

Develop a timeline specific to your community that outlines how systems changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Documenting in NFR-CRS

Recognize where to document data elements that describe how to collect data in NFR-CRS



Practice Reviewing Cases

Review example cases and practice collecting data on these deaths.



Presentation Goals

Speakers



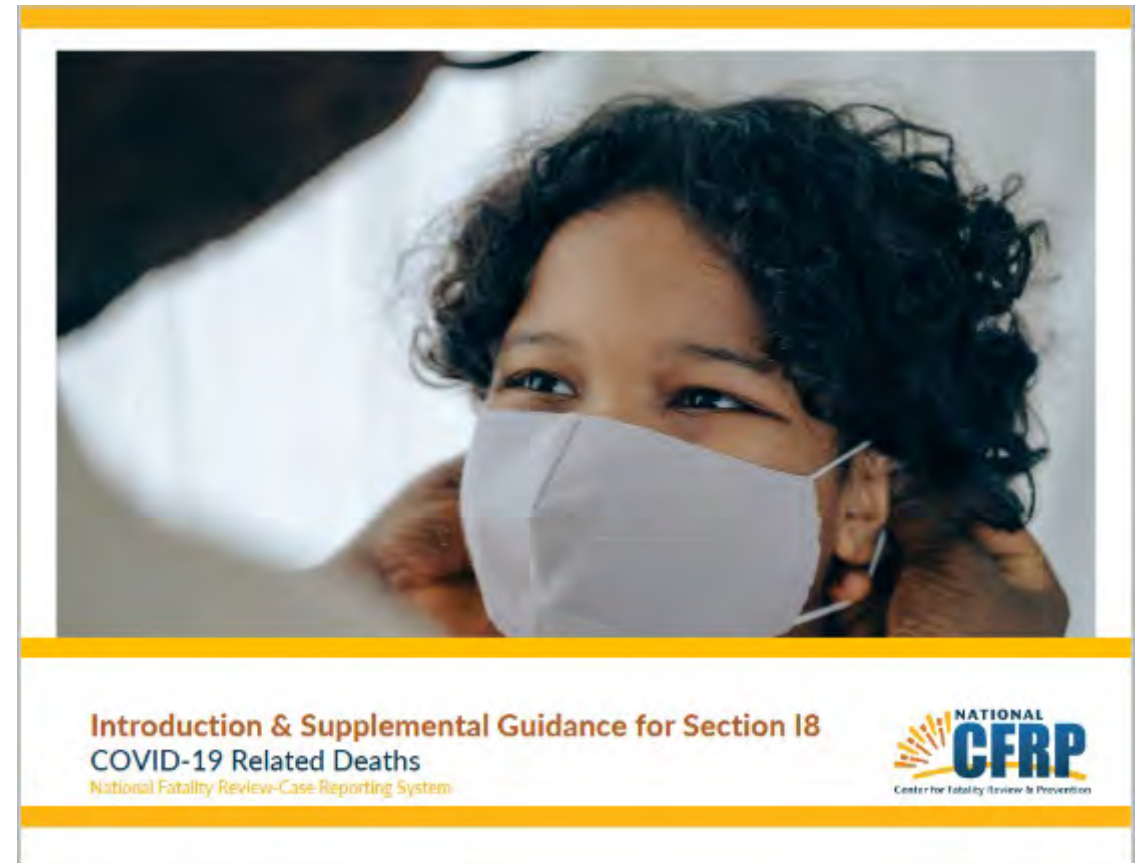
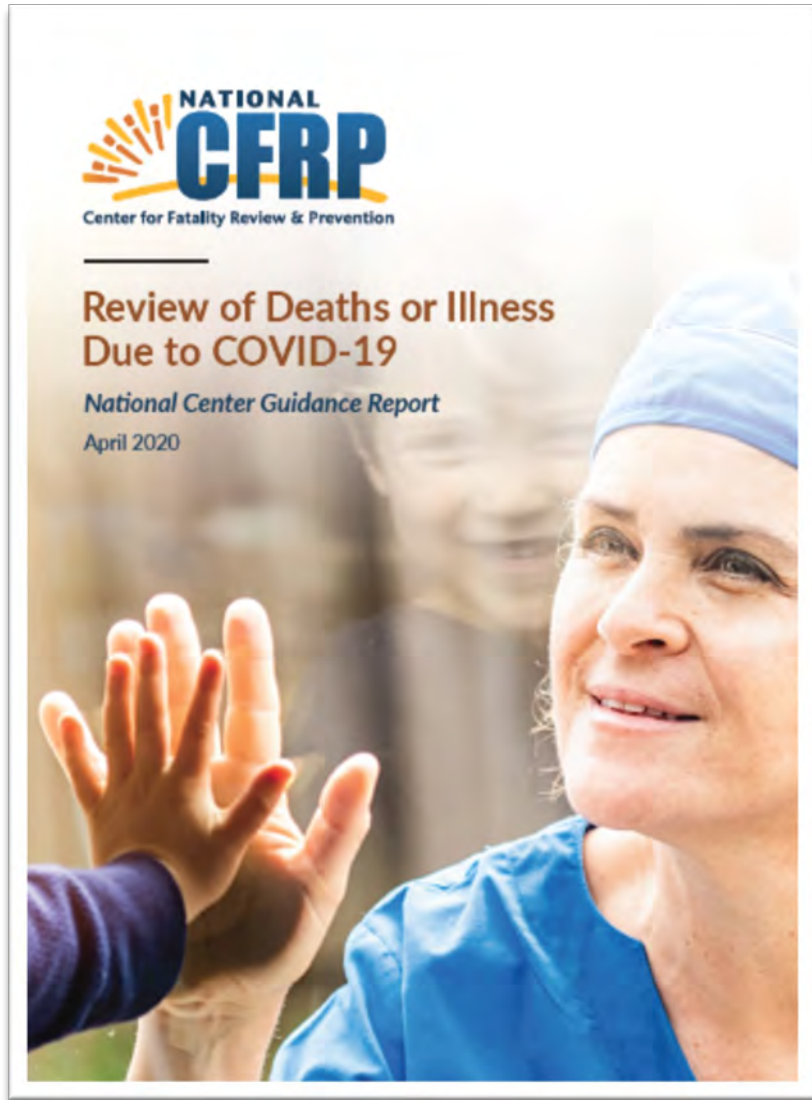
Abby Collier, MS
Director
National Center for Fatality
Review and Prevention



Susanna Joy, MA
Project Coordinator
National Center for Fatality
Review and Prevention

Resources for Reviewing COVID-19 Deaths

www.ncfrp.org



New Questions in NFR-CRS

Section I8: COVID-19 Related Deaths

I8. COVID-19-RELATED DEATHS	
<p>a. For the 12 months before the child's death, did the family experience any disruptions or significant changes to the following?</p> <p>Check all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> None listed below<input type="checkbox"/> School<input type="checkbox"/> Daycare<input type="checkbox"/> Employment<input type="checkbox"/> Social services (such as unemployment assistance, TANF, WIC)<input type="checkbox"/> Living environment<input type="checkbox"/> Medical care<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health or substance use/abuse care<input type="checkbox"/> Home-based services (non-child welfare)<input type="checkbox"/> Child welfare services<input type="checkbox"/> Legal proceedings within criminal, civil, or family courts<input type="checkbox"/> Other<input type="checkbox"/> U/K <p>Describe:</p>	<p>c. Was the child exposed to COVID-19 within 14 days of death?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, describe:</p>
	<p>d. Select the one option that best describes the impact of COVID-19 on this child's death:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> COVID-19 was the immediate or underlying cause of death<input type="radio"/> COVID-19 was diagnosed at autopsy or the child was suspected to have COVID-19<input type="radio"/> COVID-19 indirectly contributed to the death but was not the immediate or underlying cause of death<input type="radio"/> The birthing parent contracted COVID-19 during pregnancy<input type="radio"/> Other, specify:<input type="radio"/> COVID-19 had no impact on this child's death<input type="radio"/> U/K
<p>b. For the 12 months before the child's death, did the child's family live in an area with an official stay at home order?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, was the stay at home order in place at the time of the child's death?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p>	<p>e. Did COVID-19 impact the team's ability to conduct this fatality review?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, check all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to obtain records<input type="checkbox"/> Team members unable to attend review<input type="checkbox"/> Remote reviews negatively impacted review process<input type="checkbox"/> Team leaders redirected to COVID-19 response

Records Needed for Review

PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL REVIEW



DEATH SCENE INVESTIGATION

Death certificate, death scene investigation, including if the child was exposed to COVID-19 or tested during autopsy, and any in-utero exposure to COVID-19 from relevant prenatal records.

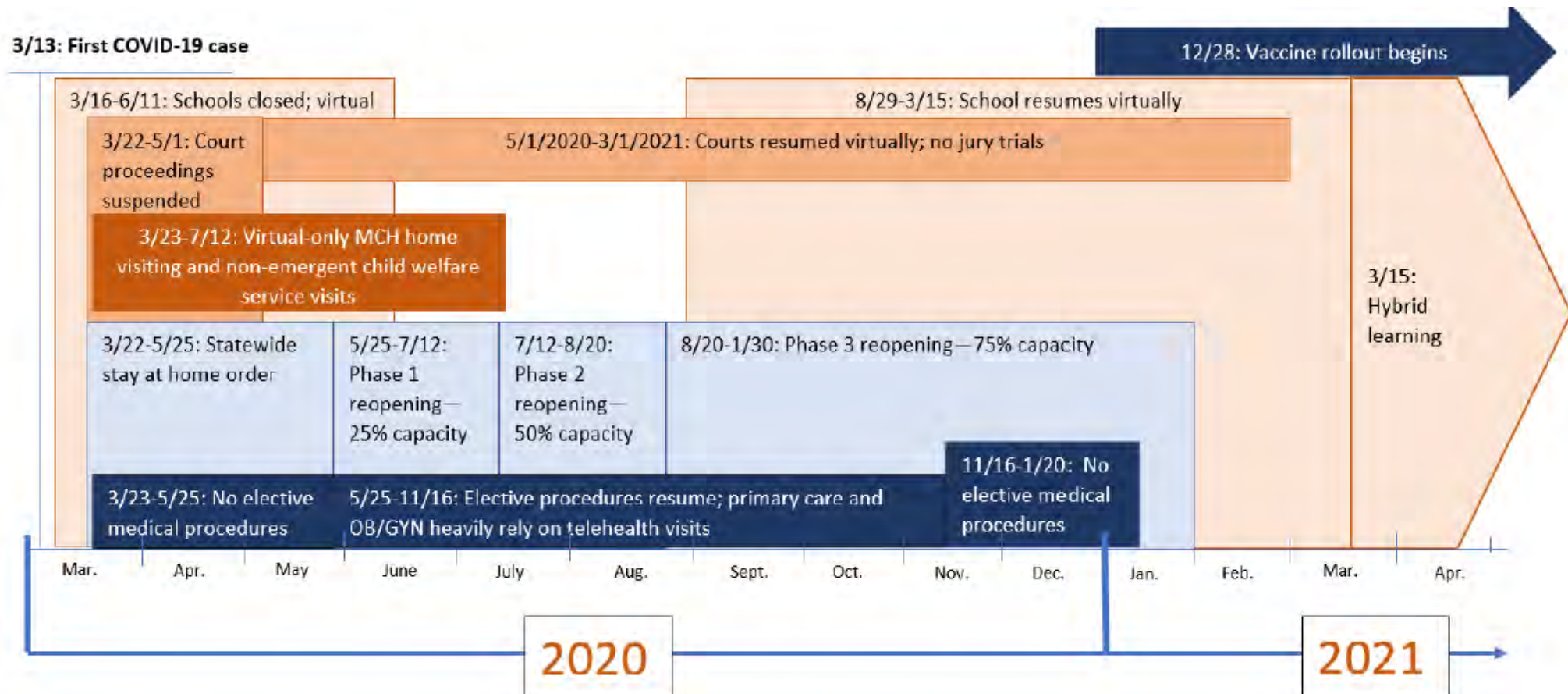


SYSTEMS CHANGES

Identify all the ways in which systems changed during COVID-19.

Creating a Timeline of COVID-19

Identify When COVID-19 Impacted Systems and Health Care



List-Based COVID-19 Timeline

Identify When COVID-19 Impacted Systems and Health Care

List-based Timeline

3/13/2020: First case of COVID-19 in the state

3/16/2020-6/11/2020: Schools closed; virtual learning only

3/22/2020-5/25/2020: Statewide stay at home order

3/23/2020-7/12/2020: Virtual-only MCH home visiting and non-emergent child welfare service visits

3/23/2020-5/25/2020: No elective medical procedures

5/25/2020-7/23/2020: Phase 1 reopening statewide--25% capacity

5/25/2020-11/16/2020: Elective medical procedures resume; primary care and OB/GYN heavily rely on telehealth visits

7/12/2020-8/20/2020: Phase 2 reopening--50% capacity

8/20/2020-1/30/2021: Phase 3 reopening--75% capacity

8/29/2020-3/15/2021: School resumes virtually

11/16/2020-1/20/2021: No elective medical procedures

12/28/2020: Vaccine rollout begins

3/15/2021: Hybrid learning for public schools

A photograph of three young Black women sitting in a field of tall grass at sunset. The woman on the left has curly hair and is wearing a pink top. The woman in the middle has straight hair, wears glasses, and a white t-shirt with a circular logo that says 'I NEED MY SPACE'. The woman on the right has long curly hair and is wearing a dark top. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a field.

Sources of Information

State public health orders

Executive orders within a jurisdiction

News media

Local health departments

Agencies

Types of Systems to Consider

I8a: Disruptions to systems in the 12 months before death

- Business closures
- Medical care
- Child welfare services
- Schools
- Social services
- Mental health care
- Courts
- Daycare
- Home-based services





Questions for All Cases

Would this outcome have been different in absence of the COVID-19 pandemic?



Questions for Pregnancy and Prenatal Care

Was the childbearing parent able to start consistent prenatal care in a timely way? Did the pandemic impact the biological parent's mental health?



Questions for Deaths due to Injury

What role, direct or indirect, did COVID-19 have on this death?



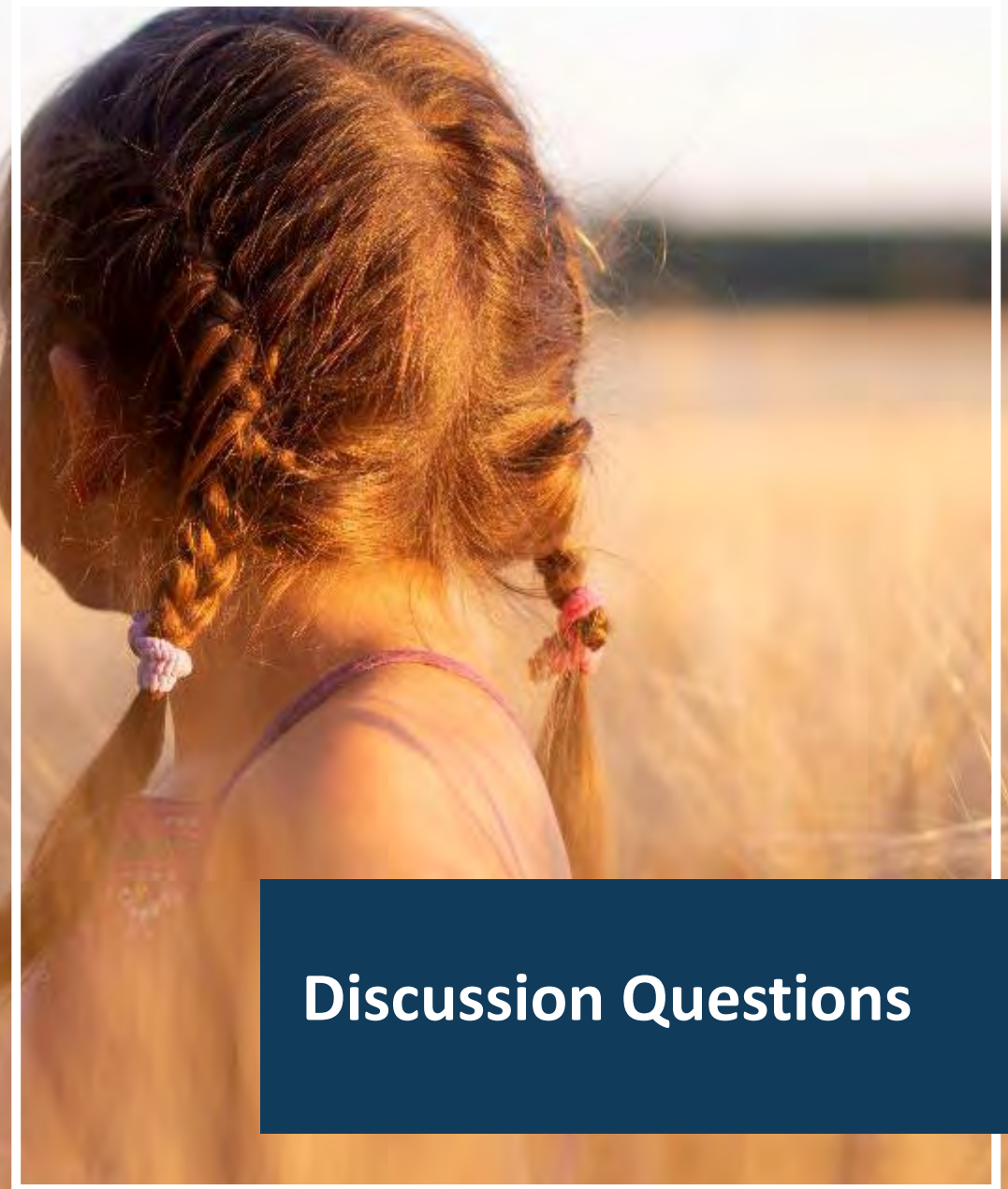
Questions for Deaths due to COVID-19

Was the child/family able to comply with local/state/federal public health orders?



Questions for Deaths Suspected of COVID-19

What possible exposure did the child and family have in the 10 days prior to death? Did the family experience a barrier to COVID-19 testing?



Discussion Questions

Impact of COVID-19

Identify the Most Significant Impact of COVID-19 on the Death

Most
Significant



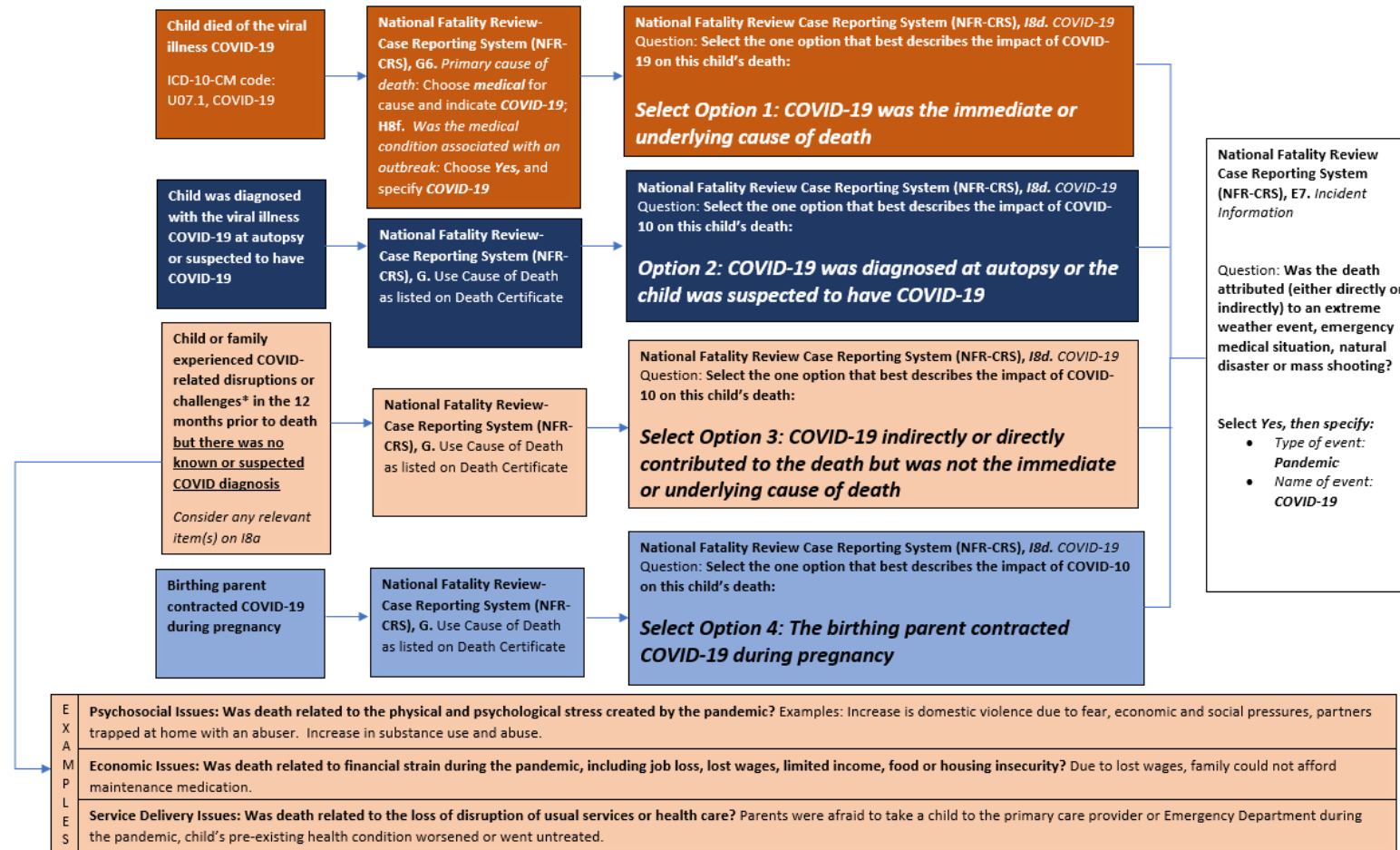
Least
Significant

d. Select the one option that best describes the impact of COVID-19 on this child's death:

- ☐ COVID-19 was the immediate or underlying cause of death
- ☐ COVID-19 was diagnosed at autopsy or the child was suspected to have COVID-19
- ☐ COVID-19 indirectly contributed to the death but was not the immediate or underlying cause of death
- ☐ The birthing parent contracted COVID-19 during pregnancy
- ☐ Other, specify:
- ☐ COVID-19 had no impact on this child's death
- ☐ U/K

Algorithm

Identifying the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Death





I8d: COVID-19 was the Immediate or Underlying Cause of Death

COVID was the Cause of Death

G6: *Primary Cause of Death*: Choose medical for cause and indicate COVID-19

H8f: *Was the medical condition associated with an outbreak?*

E7: *Was the death attributed directly or indirectly to an extreme weather event, emergency medical situation, natural disaster or mass shooting?*

Specify: Pandemic, COVID-19

I8d: Option 1: COVID-19 was the immediate or underlying cause of death

COVID-19 was Diagnosed at Autopsy or Suspected COVID-19

I8d: Option 2

G6: Primary Cause of Death: Choose medical for cause and indicate COVID-19

E7: Was the death attributed directly or indirectly to an extreme weather event, emergency medical situation, natural disaster or mass shooting?

Specify: Pandemic, COVID-19

I8d: Option 2: COVID-19 was diagnosed at the autopsy or the child was suspected to have COVID-19



COVID-19 INDIRECTLY OR DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED

I8d: Option 3

G6: *Primary Cause of Death:* Choose cause of death as listed on death certificate

E7: *Was the death attributed directly or indirectly to an extreme weather event, emergency medical situation, natural disaster or mass shooting?* Specify:

Pandemic, COVID-19

I8d: Option 3: COVID-19 indirectly or directly contributed to the death



Indirect or Direct Impacts

Types of Systems Impacted



PSYCHOSOCIAL



Was the death related to the physical and psychological stress created by COVID-19?



ECONOMIC



Was the death related to financial strain during COVID-19?



SERVICE DELIVERY



Was the death related to the loss of disruption of services or health care?

The Birthing Parent Contracted COVID-19 during Pregnancy

I8d: Option 4

G6: Primary Cause of Death: Choose medical for cause and indicate COVID-19

E7: Was the death attributed directly or indirectly to an extreme weather event, emergency medical situation, natural disaster or mass shooting? Specify: Pandemic, COVID-19

I8d: Option 4: The birthing parent contracted COVID-19 during pregnancy



COVID-19's Impact on the Review Process

I8e: Did COVID-19 Impact the Team's Ability to Conduct this Fatality Review?



REVIEW MEETING

Unable to obtain records

Team members unable to attend

Remote meetings negatively impacted review process



RESOURCES REDIRECTED

Team members unable to attend

Team leaders redirected to COVID-19 response

Mock Case 1

Infant death due to prematurity and chorioamnionitis

The baby's mother was 4 months pregnant and had completed one prenatal appointment and one home visiting appointment in April 2020, when her appointments transitioned from in-person to telehealth visits due to COVID-19. The 22-year-old mother was somewhat concerned about not seeing her OB/GYN, but since it was her first pregnancy, she was unsure of what was "normal." She had 3 telehealth visits in April, May, and June. In late June she presented to the emergency department of her local hospital, indicating that her belly hurt, she had a fever, and something "wasn't right." She was admitted to labor and delivery, where she delivered her baby at 28 weeks gestation. The infant lived for 22 hours in the NICU before dying of complications of chorioamnionitis infection.

Mock Case 2

Asthma death, 7-year-old female

The child's father lost his job due to statewide business shutdowns in April 2020. This caused the family to also lose their private insurance coverage. The child had been diagnosed with asthma 3 years earlier, and she relied on a rescue inhaler. The family was exploring an alternate way to fill her prescription in May when she experienced a fatal asthma attack brought on by seasonal allergies.

Mock Case 3

Homicide, 3-year-old male

A 3-year-old boy lived at home with his mother, mother's boyfriend, and 2 older siblings. Due to closures of local businesses in late summer, 2020, the mother's boyfriend was home full time and the family removed him from his daycare program. The boyfriend had a history of multiple reports to child protective services for abuse of his own child 6 years earlier. Police were called to the house by the boyfriend who indicated the child had fallen down the stairs, had become unconscious, and would not wake up. The mother met the ambulance at the home, and paramedics declared the child dead. The investigation revealed that the child had sustained blunt forced injuries that could not be explained by falling down the short flight of steps in the home; the autopsy revealed healed fractures in several places on the boy's skeleton; and the cause of death was ruled homicide. The boyfriend was charged with the boy's murder.

Mock Case 4

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), 5-year-old male

The child's mother worked as a nursing assistant at a local home health agency. She contracted COVID-19 from a patient. While mother was home sick, the child did not go to day care. On mother's 3rd day at home, the child was lethargic, started complaining of a tummy ache, and started having diarrhea. The next day he spiked a concerning fever. It stayed elevated for 36 hours and would not respond to alternating ibuprofen and acetaminophen. The child's aunt took him to the emergency room where he presented with tachycardia and showed signs of significant organ inflammation. He was admitted to the PICU where he died 6 days later due to severe inflammation throughout his cardiovascular system.

Mock Case 5

Motor vehicle crash, 16-year-old male

A local teenager was driving home from the grocery store around 8:45 PM on a Friday night in January 2021. The weather was clear, but cold, and there was snow on the ground. While the roads were mostly clear, he hit a patch of black ice, lost control, and slid into oncoming traffic. He was killed on impact with an oncoming vehicle. The investigation concluded that he was not speeding, but that the driver of the other vehicle did not have adequate time to avoid the collision.

Mock Case 6

Suicide death, non-binary teen

The teenager had started virtual schooling in March 2020, through the end of the school year, and had started back to virtual school in September 2020. They had been active in school clubs and activities prior to the pandemic. They had a history of depression and had been in therapy for several years prior to the pandemic. While there had been intermittent breaks in therapy, it had transitioned to virtual platforms in the summer. In November 2020, they had been unable to schedule an appointment with their therapist, as the schedule had been increasingly full the longer the pandemic wore on. They complained of being increasingly lonely and sad the longer they did online school. They started making more and more despondent posts on social media. The teen died by suicide by hanging in late November. The family said that the lack of social interactions at school and through extracurricular activities had a profound affect on their mental health, and they seemed to “languish” the longer the pandemic wore on.

SELF-CARE

Resources to support teams and coordinators

Assessment Tools for Fatality Review Teams

To assess burnout, social connectedness, distress, and vicarious trauma

Self-Care for Investigators and Responders

Chapter 10, Child Death Scene Investigation Learning Series

Richard Klomp, CDC

**Continuing education credits awarded*



Building Resilience

The process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress*

- Individuals
- Agencies
- Fatality Review Teams
- Communities



*<https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/>
<https://www.resilience.org/six-foundations-for-community-resilience/>



EVALUATION

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32BRMMX>



CONTACT INFORMATION



2395 Jolly Rd., Suite 120
Okemos, MI 48864



Phone: 800-656-2434



info@ncfrp.com



www.ncfrp.org