

July 18, 2022

[REDACTED]

**Re: Request under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("Act")**

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is in response to your request for information received by the Department for the following:

**"I would like to be provided with the daily or weekly number of New Brunswick deaths in Long-Term Care homes or other facilities managed by the Department of Social Development where COVID-19 was recorded as:**

- 1) The immediate cause of death,**
- 2) An antecedent, giving rise to the immediate cause of death, or**
- 3) Another significant condition.**

**Additionally, I would like to be provided (separately) with the daily or weekly number of deaths where other specified or unspecified viral infection was recorded as any of the above three items."**

***Time period: March 1, 2020 to June 21, 2022 (inclusive)***

The Department does not track information on the cause of death in Long-Term Care facilities, nor does it break down the number of deaths in Long-Term Care facilities by day or week. However, we are able to provide the number of deaths for a specified time period. The total number of **ALL** deaths in Long-Term Care facilities for the time period of your request was 5,524.

The Department does have information on the number of deaths in Long-Term Care facilities ***related to*** COVID-19. It is important to note that we do not know if COVID-19 was the cause of death in these cases; rather, these data represent the number of residents in Long-Term Care facilities who died and also tested positive for COVID-19. The total number of deaths in Long-Term Care facilities related to COVID-19 for the time period of your request was 180.

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As the Department does not track information relating to the cause of death of residents in Long-Term Care facilities, we recommend you contact Public Health for more information:

- **Email:** [DH-MS.InformationAccess-Accessalinformation@gnb.ca](mailto:DH-MS.InformationAccess-Accessalinformation@gnb.ca)
- **Telephone:** (506) 429-3694
- **Fax:** (506) 444-5236

If you are not satisfied with this decision, you may file a complaint with the Office of the Ombud as per section 67(1)(a)(i) of *RTIPPA* within 40 days of receiving this response, or refer the matter to a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench as per section 65(1)(a) of *RTIPPA* within 40 days of receiving this response.

Sincerely,



K. Dorothy Shephard  
Minister of Social Development