

# COVID-19 Update

Oct. 20, 2021

5 p.m.

An audit of autopsy results and death certificates from fiscal year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 shows that nine additional incarcerated people who died from other illnesses also had COVID-19 or complications of the virus.

This accounting is in line with parameters set out by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Going forward, the department will audit autopsy reports and death certificates monthly for any previously unknown covid diagnoses.

In seven of the deaths, the inmates were seriously or terminally ill from other conditions.

In five of the cases, the covid diagnosis was made post-mortem.

This brings the total number of inmate deaths from COVID-19 or complications of covid to 53.

The inmates are:

Mitchell Washington, 54, died July 17, 2020, at a local hospital. He collapsed at Perry CI, was transported to the hospital and died later that day. He did not have a positive covid diagnosis, but the death certificate lists covid as a contributing factor.

Roy Lee Buff, 72, died Aug. 16, 2020, at Broad River CI. He had several underlying medical conditions but had not tested positive at SCDC. His covid diagnosis was post-mortem, and his death certificate lists covid as the cause of death.

Bryan Harrison, 48, died Aug. 29, 2020, at Broad River CI. He was seriously ill with several comorbidities but had not tested positive for covid. His covid diagnosis was post-mortem, and his autopsy report lists covid as a cause of death.

David Raffield, 69, died Jan. 21, 2021, at a local hospital. He had underlying medical conditions and was hospitalized on Jan. 17 for covid symptoms but tested negative that day and a subsequent day. Tests after his death revealed him to be covid positive.

Deangelo Rodriguez Milligan, 27, died Jan. 27, 2021, at Broad River CI. He was hospitalized from Kershaw CI on Jan. 21 for a reaction to smoking synthetic marijuana, which can cause acute kidney failure and other serious health conditions. He tested negative for covid at admission to the hospital. He died shortly after being discharged from the hospital on Jan. 27. The autopsy reports list covid as a contributing factor to his death.

Barbara Chavis Wright, 72, died Feb. 7, 2021, at a local hospital. She was hospitalized for several comorbidities on Jan. 27 and was covid positive. She was discharged two days later and admitted again Feb. 4. Her autopsy report lists covid as a cause of death.

James Calvin Morrison, 77, died Feb. 16, 2021, at a local hospital. He tested covid negative at Kirkland on Feb. 2 but was seriously ill with other comorbidities. He tested positive after he was hospitalized Feb. 5. His death certificate lists covid as a contributing factor to his death.

Tracy Willard Daniels, 77, died April 9, 2021, at a local hospital. He was terminally ill and was hospitalized on March 11. His covid tests in January and February at SCDC were negative. His death certificate lists covid as a contributing factor to his death.

William Broach, 82, died Aug. 1, 2021, at a local hospital. He was terminally ill with lung cancer and tested negative twice at the hospital. The autopsy report shows he tested positive post-mortem.