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## **HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE 8-10-2020**

### **HEALTH OFFICER EXPLAINS DIFFERENCES IN DATA POSTED ON DIFFERENT WEBSITES**

Several people have asked why the state website (Maryland Coronavirus) might have a different number for cases or deaths in Talbot County than what is on Talbot COVID 19 website. When the state posts the number of confirmed cases of COVID 19 for a county, they have occasionally made mistakes. Early in the pandemic, we found three people on our list that lived in another state but were included in our number of cases. We tried to get this corrected but finally realized that no one was going to make a change. Then we learned that nursing home deaths were posted under the county of residence before the person was admitted to the facility instead of the county in which the nursing home was located. We do not count those deaths but Talbot County does count any nursing home death that occurs in our county regardless of their previous address before admission to the facility. The figures Talbot County posts are those that we have confirmed were Talbot County residents and are more accurate than the state figures.

Other people have asked why the positivity rate for Maryland on the Maryland coronavirus website of the Maryland Department of Health differs from the positivity rate for Maryland on the Johns Hopkins' Coronavirus website. John's Hopkins explains the difference in how each calculates the figure. Johns Hopkins uses an unduplicated count for people tested while the MDH site includes all tests done even though two might have been on the same person. This results in the Johns Hopkins figure being higher than the Maryland positivity rate.