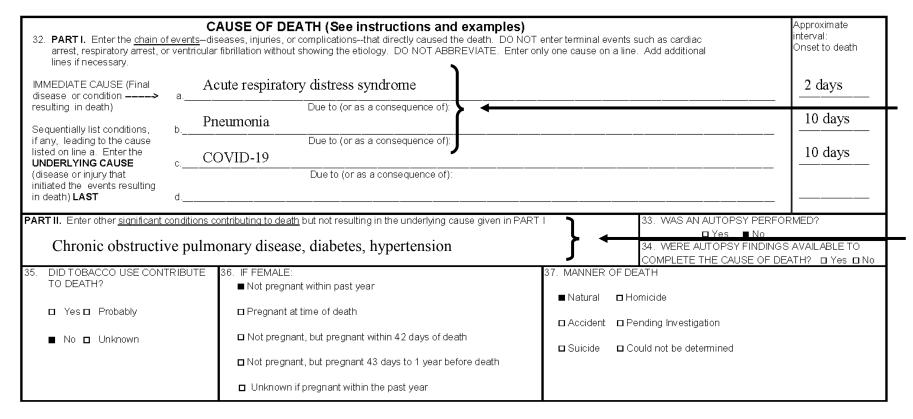# FIGURE. Example Death Certificate with COVID-19 listed as a diagnosis along with chain-of-event and significant contributing conditions

CAUSE OF DEATH (See instructions and examples)

32. **PART I.** Enter the <u>chain of events</u>—diseases, injuries, or complications--that directly caused the death. DO NOT enter terminal events such as cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or ventricular fibrillation without showing the etiology. DO NOT ABBREVIATE. Enter only one cause on a line. Add additional lines if necessary.

Approximate interval:
Onset to death

IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition ----→ resulting in death)

a. Acute respiratory distress syndrome — 2 days

Due to (or as a consequence of):

Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to the cause listed on line a. Enter the **UNDERLYING CAUSE** (disease or injury that initiated the events resulting in death) **LAST**

b. Pneumonia — 10 days

Due to (or as a consequence of):

c. COVID-19 — 10 days

Due to (or as a consequence of):

d. _____

Chain-of-event condition:
Any ICD-10 code on the same line as or above the COVID-19 listing in Part I (i.e., leading to the cause of death)

PART II. Enter other <u>significant conditions contributing to death</u> but not resulting in the underlying cause given in PART I

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, hypertension

Significant contributing condition:
Any ICD-10 code listed in Part II or below the COVID-19 listing in Part I or considered a significant contributing condition (excluding common chain-of-event conditions)

33. WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED?
☐ Yes ■ No

34. WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE THE CAUSE OF DEATH? ☐ Yes ☐ No

35. DID TOBACCO USE CONTRIBUTE TO DEATH?

☐ Yes ☐ Probably

■ No ☐ Unknown

36. IF FEMALE:
■ Not pregnant within past year
☐ Pregnant at time of death
☐ Not pregnant, but pregnant within 42 days of death
☐ Not pregnant, but pregnant 43 days to 1 year before death
☐ Unknown if pregnant within the past year

37. MANNER OF DEATH

■ Natural   ☐ Homicide

☐ Accident   ☐ Pending Investigation

☐ Suicide   ☐ Could not be determined

Modified from National Center for Health Statistics https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvss/vsrg/vsrg03-508.pdf