August 24, 2020

Christine Massey  
#221 - 93 George St S.,  
Brampton ON L6Y 1P4  
via e-mail: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Christine:

RE: Freedom of Information Request # 20-03

I am writing regarding your access request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FIPPA"), received on July 17, 2020, as follows:

All records in the possession, custody or control of Mount Sinai Hospital describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken from a diseased patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. monkey kidney cells aka vero cells; lung cells from a lung cancer patient).

Please note that I am using "isolation" in the every-day sense of the word: the act of separating a thing(s) from everything else. I am not requesting records where "isolation of SARS-COV-2" refers instead to:

- the culturing of something, or
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or
- the sequencing of something.

Please also note that my request is not limited to records that:

- were authored by Mount Sinai Hospital researchers, or
- pertain to work done by Mount Sinai Hospital researchers, or
- pertain to work done at Mount Sinai Hospital.

My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that Mount Sinai Hospital has downloaded or printed.

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it.
I have been engaging with our experts at Sinai Health regarding your request. We are not clear on the records that you are requesting, as we are not aware that isolation of a virus in the manner that you have described is possible for any virus; it is not within the scope of current scientific processes.

On this basis, we are not able to process your request as it is currently worded.

We wrote to you on July 30 and August 8, 2020 seeking clarification of your request, however you declined to speak with us and did not provide a substantive response. We would be pleased to assist you in reformulating your request in a way that would allow us to respond.

For your interest, we are pleased to share with you the following articles and pre-prints, which are demonstrative of the research on Sars-Cov-2 being done at Sinai Health:


The impact of thermal pasteurization on viral load in human milk and other matrices: A rapid review
Michael A. Pitino, Deborah L. O'Connor, Allison J. McGeer, Sharon Unger
[https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.23.20111369v2](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.23.20111369v2)
Sensitivity of nasopharyngeal swabs and saliva for the detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
Alainna J Jamal, Mohammad Mohammad, Eric Coomes, Jeff Powis, Angel Li, Aimee Paterson, Sofia Anceva-Sami, Shiva Barati, Gloria Crowl, Amna Faheem, Lubna Farooqi, Saman Khan, Karren Prost, Susan Poutanen, Lily Yip, Zoe Zhong, Allison J McGeer, Samira Mubareka
https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.01.20081026v1

Evidence for sustained mucosal and systemic antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 antigens in COVID-19 patients
Baweleta Isho, Kento T Abe, Michelle Zuo, Alainna J Jamal, Bhavisha Rathod, Jenny H Wang, Zhijie Li, Gary Chao, Olga L Rojas, Yeo Myong Bang, Annie Pu, Natasha Christie-Holmes, Christian Gervais, Derek Ceccarelli, Payman Samavarchi-Tehrani, Furkan Guvenc, Patrick Budylowski, Angel Li, Aimee Paterson, Yue Feng Yun, Lina GMarin, Lauren Caldwell, Jeffrey L Wrana, Karen Colwill, Frank Sicheri, Samira Mubareka, Scott D Gray-Owen, Steven J Drews, Walter L Siqueira, Miriam Barrios-Rodiles, Mario Ostrowski, James M Rini, Yves Durocher, Allison J McGeer, Jennifer L Gommerman, Anne-Claude Gingras
https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.08.01.20166553v1

Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 Indirect and Direct Detection Methods
Joel D. Pearson, Daniel Trcka, Sharon J. Hyduk, Marie-Ming Aymaud, J. Javier Hernández, Filippos Peidis, Suying Lu, Kin Chan, Jim Woodgett, Tony Mazzulli, Liliana Attisano, Laurence Pelletier, Myron I. Cybulsky, Jeffrey L. Wrana, Rod Bremner
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.12.092387v1

A simple protein-based SARS-CoV-2 surrogate neutralization assay
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.10.197913v1

I trust that this is of some assistance to you.

Yours very truly,

Jesstina McFadden
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