

Last Name\*: Massey  
Organization Name (optional):  
Address line 1\*: [REDACTED]  
Address line 2 (optional):  
City / Town\*: Toronto  
Province/State\*: Ontario  
Postal/ZIP Code\*: [REDACTED]  
Country\*: Canada  
Telephone No.\*: [REDACTED]  
Alternate No. (optional): [REDACTED]  
E-Mail (optional): [REDACTED]

**Description**

**Freedom Of Information Request \$5.00**

Base Amount:\$5.00

Records Requested\*: Description of Requested Records: All records in the possession, custody or control of Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto Public Health or any Department or Staff Member of the City of Toronto, 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; fetal bovine serum). 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, and/or - the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), and/or - the sequencing of something. Please also note that my request is not limited to records that were authored by Dr. de Villa or the City of Toronto or that pertain to work done by Dr. de Villa or the City of Toronto. My request includes any sort of record authored at any time by anyone, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study authored by anyone, anywhere, ever that Dr. de Villa or anyone working for the City of Toronto has downloaded or



City Clerk's Office  
John Elvidge, Interim City Clerk

Corporate Information Management  
Services  
City Hall, West Tower, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Kristie Pratt  
Deputy City Clerk

Tel: 416-392-9683  
Fax: 416-392-4900  
e-mail: Kristie.Pratt@toronto.ca

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Zoë Cliff  
416-392-9692

December 21, 2020

Ms. Christine Massey

Dear Ms. Massey:

**Subject: City of Toronto Access Request Number 2020-01757**

I am replying to your access request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

You have requested access to all records in the possession, custody or control of Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto Public Health or any Department or Staff Member of the City of Toronto, 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; fetal bovine serum).

Staff of Toronto Public Health has conducted a search for the requested records. This decision reflects the results of their search.

#### **Decision**

Toronto Public Health staff has advised that despite a thorough search, they were unable to locate any records related to your request. Access therefore, cannot be granted as the records do not exist.

Staff further advised that they do not have records related to the process of testing samples, as this is a function of Public Health Ontario. If you have not already, you may wish to reach out to staff of Public Health Ontario for further information.

#### **Right to appeal our decision**

You may ask for a review within 30 days as of the date of this decision by contacting: The Registrar, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario, 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8, telephone: 416-326-3333, or toll free 1-800-387-0073.

Ms. Christine Massey

December 21, 2020

If you choose to appeal, please provide the Commissioner with the following:

- the request number assigned to your request;
- a copy of this decision letter;
- a copy of your original request;
- the appeal fee for general records is \$25, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance.

For more information, you may wish to visit the IPC's website:

<http://www.ipc.on.ca/english/Home-Page/>

Should you have any questions, please contact **Zoë Cliff, Access and Privacy Officer**, at **416-392-9692** or [zoe.cliff@toronto.ca](mailto:zoe.cliff@toronto.ca).

Yours truly,



John Elvidge  
Interim City Clerk