



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Fwd: HHS FOIA Request 2021-01625-FOIA-OS

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:05 PM

To: "christinem@fluoridefreepeel.ca" <christinem@fluoridefreepeel.ca>

You can add to your list. From US Department of Human and Health Services.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Taylor, Natasha** <foiarequest@hhs.gov>

Date: Thu, Aug 19, 2021 at 4:50 PM

Subject: HHS FOIA Request 2021-01625-FOIA-OS

To: [REDACTED]

RE: 2021-01625-FOIA-OS

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated: **August 18, 2021**, concerning "Records that demonstrates the US Department of Health and Human Services has a physical sample of the isolated and purified SARS-CoV-2 virus including the following: 1) Any and all evidence of this External Standard or Certified Reference Material (CRM) for calibration of RT-PCR test kits and any or all documentation; 2) Evidence of whether the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) occurred from the isolate; 3) Evidence and information on the current modality/test being used to determine and identify the difference from the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and the "Delta Variant" and/or other variants with all evidence and documentation demonstrating the initial discovery of the other variants. (Date Range for Record Search: From 10/1/2019 To 8/18/2021)".

We received your request on **August 18, 2021**.

For administrative convenience and to fully respond to your request, program staff have provided the following information below with corresponding web links.

SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Active infection with SARS-CoV-2 is detected by [diagnostic tests](#). Currently there are two types of diagnostic tests – molecular tests that detect the virus's genetic material and antigen tests that detect specific proteins on the surface of the virus. For current data showing the total number of SARS-CoV-2-positive cases and deaths, visit the [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#), which shows cases and deaths in the United States broken down by state and county, daily trends in the number of cases by state, and other parameters.

Evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection can be found in a study entitled, [Pathology and Pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2 Associated with Fatal Coronavirus Disease](#), which includes electron microscopy images of SARS-CoV-2 in infected lung and upper airway tissues as well as staining of lung and upper airway tissues using an antibody against SARS-CoV-2.

The specimens analyzed in this study were from patients with common signs and symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. All patients had abnormal findings on chest radiographs.

There are other similar studies publicly available online. To aid in locating other related studies, please see the articles suggested in the "Similar Articles" and "Cited by" section on the manuscript's [PubMed entry](#).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus may be isolated from human clinical specimens by culturing in cells. In January 2020, CDC isolated the SARS-CoV-2 virus from a clinical specimen from the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States. There are other similar studies published describing the isolation and characterization of SARS-CoV-2 from human clinical specimens. To aid in locating other related studies, please see the articles suggested in the "Similar Articles" and "Cited by" section on the manuscript's [PubMed entry](#). There are also [several publications](#) documenting SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission among pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.

For information about the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequence, see the NIH GenBank website (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/sars-cov-2-seqs/>), which includes over 44,000 sequences as of December 7, 2020.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of the records provided please contact either our FOIA Requester Service Center at 770-488-6399 or our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277.

Sincerely,

Natasha Taylor
Government Information Specialist
Main Office Line: 202-690-7453