



Office of the Regional Clerk
Legislative and Planning Services
Halton Region
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
Fax: 905-825-8838

September 27, 2021

VIA EMAIL TO:

RE: Freedom of Information Request #47-21 - Decision

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your access request and accompanying \$5.00 application fee under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA), which I received on September 17, 2021. You are asking for all records describing the isolation of a SARS-COV-2 virus, directly from a sample taken for 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; liver cancer cells. You have further indicated that you are not requesting records where isolation of SARS-COV-2 refers to the culturing of something, or the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or the sequencing of something.

The laboratory test results of residents of Halton Region that have tested positive for SARS-COV-2 have been provided to our Health Department by Public Health Ontario (who is responsible for COVID-19 testing). Although these records describe the testing method used for the SARS-COV-2 virus, according to our Health Department's Director of Infectious Diseases Control all records of positive COVID-19 test results received from Public Health Ontario indicate that patient samples submitted for COVID-19 testing were analysed by means of a PCR test. As such, we have not located any records that are responsive to your request.

Since the testing for COVID-19 is completed by Public Health Ontario, Laboratory Services, you may wish to review the details of PCR testing for COVID-19 on their website at the following web address: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/covid-19>.

If you would like to receive a formal response from Public Health Ontario as well in respect of your access request, let us know, and we can forward your request to them for handling through their own freedom of information process.

I am responsible for this access decision. Do contact me if you have questions. You may request a review of this decision by the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC). The IPC can be reached at: 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto, ON, M4W 1A8, 1-800-387-0073, www.ipc.on.ca. Please note that you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request a review.

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

In the event you launch an appeal you must provide the IPC with a copy of this decision as well as a copy of your original request for information. Also, an appeal fee applies. For personal information requests, the appeal fee is \$10.00. For all other requests, the appeal fee is \$25.00. You should include the fee, in the form of a cheque or money order made payable to the Minister of Finance with your appeal documentation.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Melody Kennedy
FA322A3E044E494...

Melody Kennedy
Health Information and Privacy Analyst
melody.kennedy@halton.ca
ext. 6227

cc: *Christine Melki, Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator, Region of Halton*