

Final Response Health Canada Access to Information request A-2021-000768 Inbox x



Smith, Christinen (HC/SC) <christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca>

Fri, Aug 20, 8:55 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to me ▾

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Please find attached the final response letter to your Access to Information request for the following: **All records 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 a.k.a. vero cells, liver cancer cells). 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 (i.e. the culturing of supernatant in vero cells), or; the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test on a patient sample adulterated with an enzyme to release genetic material from cells), or; the sequencing of something.**

Thank you and have a nice day.

Christine Smith
(she | elle)

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Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Our file: A-2021-000768 / CS



Dear 

This is in response to your request made under the *Access to Information Act* (the Act) for the following information:

Dear Sir or Madam, Department of Health and Social Services Under section 9 of the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information, I hereby request a copy of the following document(s): All records 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 a.k.a. vero cells, liver cancer cells). 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 (i.e. the culturing of supernatant in vero cells), or; · the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test on a patient sample adulterated with an enzyme to release genetic material from cells), or; · the sequencing of something. Format: Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not want anything shipped to me.

Your request has resulted in a "No Records Exist", firstly as this would be a Public Health Agency of Canada request and also because of the way that you have formulated the request. The isolation of the virus is not completed without the use of another medium, therefore we have no records that would show this process taking place. It is important to understand the following: The gold standard assay used to determine the presence of intact virus in patient samples is viral isolation in cell culture. With this assay, if virus is present in the patient sample, it will multiply and produce visible cytopathic effects, which means that infected cells demonstrate visible changes. Additionally, the detection of an increase in the genetic viral material by PCR further confirms that intact virus is present in the patient sample, since increasing viral genetic material necessitates replication of the viral within the cell culture. This technique was successfully used to confirm that intact SARS-COV-2 was present in Canadian patient samples. In the case of SARS-COV-2 isolation, Vero cells combined with minimal

essential medium (MEM) were used because they are essential to support viral replication and cell growth. This combination supports the growth of other coronavirus types and was successful in the case of SARS-CoV-2 as well.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact Christine N. Smith, the analyst responsible for this file, either by phone at 613-862-6063, by email at christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca, with reference to our file number cited above.

Please be advised that you are entitled to complain to the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada concerning the processing of your request within 60 days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint can be made online at: <https://www.oic-ci.gc.ca/en/submitting-complaint> or by mail to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3

Yours sincerely,

Smith,
Christine
N

A digital signature block for Christine N. Smith. It includes the text "Digitally signed by Smith, Christine N.", "DN: cn=CA, o=GC, ou=HC-SC, ca=Smith, Christine N", "Reason: I am the author of this document", "Location: your signing location here", "Date: 2021.08.20 08:51:42-04'00'", and "Email: christinen@ci.gc.ca Version: 1.0.1.0".

Christine Smith
Team Leader, Access to Information and Privacy