



**\* Request description (maximum 1500 characters) (required)**

**i** Please describe your request. We'd encourage you to include specific details such as subject matter of the request, date or date ranges, types of records (emails, reports, briefing notes, presentations) and desired file type (PDF, DOC, etc), if applicable. Details about your request helps us to respond more quickly.

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of PHAC describing the purification (i.e. via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of any "Marburg virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human or non-human primate, where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum).

Clarification:

I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected "virus" and instead:

- cultured something, and/or
- performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or
- fabricated a "genome", and/or
- produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.

I am aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate. I am not requesting records describing the replication of a "virus" without host cells or a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or private patient data; merely records that describe purification (separation from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).

This includes any study/report as above, authored by anyone, anywhere.

I require citations for any such records that are publicly available and thus not provided.



Christine Massey &lt;cmssyc@gmail.com&gt;

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**Public Health Agency Access to Information request A-2021-000425**

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**Smith, Christinen (HC/SC)** <christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
To: "cmssyc@gmail.com" <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 1:50 PM

Good Afternoon Christine Massey:

Please find attached our response to your request for the following: **All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of PHAC describing the purification (i.e. via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of any "Marburg virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human or non-human primate, where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum). Clarification: I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected "virus" and instead: - cultured something, and/or - performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or - fabricated a "genome", and/or - produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things. I am aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate. I am not requesting records describing the replication of a "virus" without host cells or a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or private patient data; merely records that describe purification (separation from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things). This includes any study/report as above, authored by anyone, anywhere. I require citations for any such records that are publicly available and thus not provided.**

Thank you and have a nice day

Christine Smith


(she | elle)

Team Leader, Access to Information and Privacy  
Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada / Government of Canada  
[christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca) / Tel: 613-862-6063

Chef d'équipe, Accès à l'information et protection des renseignements personnels

Santé Canada et Agence de la santé publique du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada  
[christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:christinen.smith@hc-sc.gc.ca) / Tél: 613-862-6063

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 **Final Response - A-2021-000465 - 2021-10-22.pdf**  
184K



Public Health      Agence de la santé  
Agency of Canada    publique du Canada  
Access to Information and Privacy Division  
7th Floor, Suite 700, Holland Cross - Tower B  
1600 Scott Street, (Mail Stop: 3107A)  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Our file: PHAC-A-2021-000425 / CS

Christine Massey

[REDACTED]

Peterborough, Ontario

[REDACTED]

Dear Christine Massey:

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

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of PHAC describing the purification (i.e. via filtration, ultracentrifugation and chromatography) of any "Marburg virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human or non-human primate, where the sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum). Clarification: I am not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to purify the suspected "virus" and instead: - cultured something, and/or - performed an amplification test (i.e. PCR), and/or - fabricated a "genome", and/or - produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things. I am aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate. I am not requesting records describing the replication of a "virus" without host cells or a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or private patient data; merely records that describe purification (separation from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things). This includes any study/report as above, authored by anyone, anywhere. I require citations for any such records that are publicly available and thus not provided.

Having completed a thorough search, we regret to inform you that we were unable to locate any records responsive to your request. Our subject matter expert has provided the following explanation: The National Microbiology Laboratory does not perform purification on Marburg virus as described in this request. Our methods are "classical" virological techniques which sometimes utilize virus isolation from clinical specimens in mammalian cell culture for diagnostic and research purposes. Given that Canada has not documented an imported case caused by a high consequence pathogen, like Marburg virus as an example, we have only isolated these types of viruses on very rare occasions as a part of our function as a WHO reference centre for viral hemorrhagic diseases in response to outbreaks."

Canada

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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](mailto: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/submitted-complaint> or by mail to:

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

Yours sincerely,

Smith,  
Christine  
e N

Digitally signed by Smith,  
Christine N  
DN: c=CA, o=GC, ou=HC-SC,  
gn=Smith, Christine N  
Reason: I am the author of this  
document  
Location: your signing location  
here  
Date: 2021.10.22 13:30:  
15-44507  
Foxit PDF Editor Version: 11.0.1

Christine Smith  
Team Leader, Access to Information and Privacy