



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

FOIA request to CDC: Harcourt et al. "SARS-COV2 isolation" paper - unpublished details

Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>
To: "FOIA Requests (CDC)" <FOIARequests@cdc.gov>

Thu, Dec 23, 2021 at 8:18 AM

December 23, 2021

To:
Roger Andoh
Freedom of Information Officer
1600 Clifton Rd NE MS T-01
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
Email: FOIARequests@cdc.gov
Phone: 770-488-6277
Fax: 770-488-6200

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

This is a formal request for access to general records, made under the *Freedom of Information Act*.

Description of Requested Records:

All records in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) that contain **additional details** (listed below) of the so-called "virus isolation" and "whole genome sequencing" procedures/methodologies and results that were reported on in the publication by Harcourt et al. entitled "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 from Patient with Coronavirus Disease, United States" that is listed on the CDC's web site with a url of https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/6/20-0516_article.

Dr. Harcourt is listed as a microbiologist in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC, and several of her co-authors on this paper are listed as being affiliated with the CDC and so the CDC would presumably have access to these records.

Cell Culture - Experimental Group Details:

- The quantity of material from (allegedly infected) nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab specimens that was added to the cell culture experimental group (per well)
- Antibiotics Quantities for the cell culture experimental group (per well)
- Antifungals Quantities for the cell culture experimental group (per well)
- Fetal Bovine Serum Quantities and dilution for the cell culture experimental group (per well)
- The quantity and dilution of the Cell Nutrient Solution (DMEM) used in the experimental group (per well)
- The number of wells used in the experimental Group
- The number of wells in the experimental group that experienced CPE
- Type and quantity of UTM/VTM used in the experimental group (used in the storage of swab specimens from the patient diagnosed with "the virus" - per swab)
- Any additional chemicals or components added to the experimental group, with quantities (per well)

Cell Culture - "Mock Infected" / Control Group Details:

- The quantity of material from uninfected nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab specimens that was added to the cell culture control group (per well)
- Antibiotics Quantities for the cell culture control group (per well)
- Antifungals Quantities for the cell culture control group (per well)
- Fetal Bovine Serum Quantities and dilution for the cell culture control group (per well)
- The quantity and dilution of the Cell Nutrient Solution (DMEM) used in the control group (per well)

- The number of wells used in the control Group
- The number of wells in the control group that experienced CPE
- Type and quantity of UTM/VTM used in the control group (used in the storage of control swab specimens from a patient considered free of "the virus" - per swab)
- Any additional chemicals or components added to the control group, with quantities (per well)

"Whole Genome" Sequencing - Purity and Control Details:

- The degree of purity of the "virus" sample used in the sequencing experiment.
- All details of the control group that was used when comparing the results of sequencing:
 - the total nucleic acid extracted from the "viral lysate" (from the experimental group), versus
 - the total nucleic acid extracted from the non-viral lysate (from the control group).

In summary, please provide all records that include any additional details of the experimental and/or control groups that were used when "isolating and sequencing the virus".

If any records match the above description of requested records and are currently available to the public elsewhere, please provide enough information about each record so that I may identify and access each one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

Format:

Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me.

Contact Information:

Last name: Massey

First name: Christine

Address: [REDACTED] Peterborough, ON, Canada

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Thank you in advance and best wishes,
Christine Massey, M.Sc.



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

FOIA request to CDC: Harcourt et al. "SARS-COV2 isolation" paper - unpublished details

Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 24, 2021 at 8:58 AM

To: "FOIA Requests (CDC)" <FOIARequests@cdc.gov>

p.s. An additional detail to add to the above list for both cell culture groups:
Pre-Experimental Details: The Cell Nutrient Solution (storage medium)
quantity and dilution that the cell lines were stored in, in
preparation of the experiment

[Quoted text hidden]



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Your CDC FOIA Request #22-00578-FOIA

emagyar@cdc.gov <emagyar@cdc.gov>
To: cmssyc@gmail.com

Thu, Dec 30, 2021 at 1:11 PM

December 30, 2021

Request Number: 22-00578-FOIA

Dear Mr. Massey:

This is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of December 23, 2021, for request for all records in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) that contain additional details (listed below) of the so-called "virus isolation" and "whole genome sequencing" procedures/methodologies and results that were reported on in the publication by Harcourt et al. entitled "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 from Patient with Coronavirus Disease, United States" that is listed on the CDC's web site with a url of https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/6/20-0516_article.

Please see the attached letter.

Sincerely,
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Office
770-488-6399

2 attachments



578 Acknowledgement Letter.docx
76K



578 Request Description.pdf
107K



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

December 30, 2021

Christine Massey



Via email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Massey:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated December 23, 2021. Your request assigned number is 22-00578-FOIA, and it has been placed in our complex processing queue.

Extension of Time

In unusual circumstances, an agency can extend the twenty-working-day limit to respond to a FOIA request.

We will require more than thirty working days to respond to your request because:

- ☒ We reasonably expect that two or more CDC centers, institutes, and offices (C/I/Os) may have responsive records.
- ☒ We reasonably expect to receive and review voluminous records in response to your request.
- ☒ We reasonably expect to consult with two or more C/I/O/s, or another HHS operating division or another federal agency about your request.
- ☒ We reasonably expect that records located would contain confidential commercial information. We are required to notify submitters of confidential information if their information is requested through a FOIA request. Submitters have 10 working days to object to the release of their information.

To process your request promptly, please consider narrowing the scope of your request to limit the number of responsive records. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact the analyst handling your request Emerique Magyar at 770-488-6359 or our FOIA Public Liaison, Roger Andoh at 770-488-6277. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services; National Archives and Records Administration; 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS; College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Fee Category

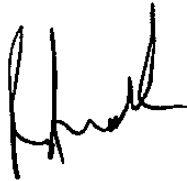
Because you are considered an "Other requester" you are entitled to two hours of free search time, and up to 100 pages of duplication (or the cost equivalent of other media) without charge, and you will not be charged for review time. We may charge for search time beyond the first two hours and for duplication beyond the first 100 pages (10 cents/page).

Cut-off-date

If you don't provide us with a date range for your request, the cut-off date for your request will be the date the search for responsive records starts.

You may check on the status of your case on our FOIA webpage <https://foia.cdc.gov/app/Home.aspx> and entering your assigned request number. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Emerique Magyar at 770-488-6359 or via email at emagyar@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roger Andoh
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
(770) 488-6399
Fax: (404) 235-1852

22-00578-FOIA

From: [Christine Massey](#)
To: [FOIA Requests \(CDC\)](#)
Subject: Re: FOIA request to CDC: Harcourt et al. "SARS-COV2 isolation" paper - unpublished details
Date: Friday, December 24, 2021 6:57:11 AM

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- > Contact Information:
- > Last name: Massey
- > First name: Christine
- > Address: [REDACTED] Peterborough, ON, Canada
- > Phone: [REDACTED]
- > Email: cmssyc@gmail.com
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- > Thank you in advance and best wishes,
- > Christine Massey, M.Sc.