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## FOIA request to CDC re: "smallpox virus" purification via any method

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Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>  
To: FOIARequests@cdc.gov

Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 9:56 PM

November 16, 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 Mr. Andoh,

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

### Description of Requested Records:

All studies and/or reports 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) describing the **purification** of any "smallpox virus" aka "variola virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human (with smallpox symptoms) where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of **genetic material** (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum).

Please note that 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 already 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 records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or private patient records.

I simply request records that describe **purification** of the alleged virus (**separation** from everything else in the patient sample as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).

My request includes any study/report matching the above description, **authored by anyone, anywhere**.

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 <cmssyc@gmail.com>

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## Your CDC FOIA Request #22-00343-FOIA

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**MNHarper@cdc.gov** <MNHarper@cdc.gov>  
To: cmssyc@gmail.com

Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 6:26 AM

November 19, 2021

Request Number: 22-00343-FOIA

Dear Ms. Massey:


This is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of November 16, 2021, for request for all studies and/or reports 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) describing the purification of any "smallpox virus" aka "variola virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human (with smallpox symptoms) where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum). Please note that 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..


Please see the attached letter.

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

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### 2 attachments

 **22-00343-FOIA.msg**  
100K

 **Acknowledgement (Complex) 30 Days.pdf**  
95K



November 19, 2021

Christine Massey

[REDACTED]  
Peterborough, ON, Canada  
Via email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Massey:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) received your attached Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 2, 2021. Your request assigned number is 22-00343-FOIA, and it has been placed in our complex processing queue.

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.

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 Mark Harper at 770-488-8154 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.

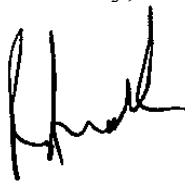
Because you are considered an "Other requester" you are entitled to two hours of free search time, and up to 100 pages of duplication (or the cost equivalent of other media) without charge, and you will not be charged for review time. We may charge for search time beyond the first two hours and for duplication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

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 me at 770-488-8154 or via email at [wzj6@cdc.gov](mailto:wzj6@cdc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Enclosure

22-00343-FOIA



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

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## Your CDC FOIA Request #22-00343-FOIA

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**MNHarper@cdc.gov** <MNHarper@cdc.gov>  
To: cmssyc@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 5, 2022 at 7:59 AM

January 5, 2022

Request Number: 22-00343-FOIA

Dear Ms. Massey:

This is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of November 16, 2021, for request for all studies and/or reports 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) describing the purification of any "smallpox virus" aka "variola virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human (with smallpox symptoms) where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum). Please note that 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..

Please see the attached letter.

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

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 **Final Response No Records.pdf**  
143K





Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333  
January 5, 2022

Christine Massey

[REDACTED]  
Peterborough, ON, Canada  
Via email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Massey:

This letter is in response to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of November 16, 2021, for:

*All studies and/or reports 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) describing the purification of any "smallpox virus" aka "variola virus", directly from a sample taken from a diseased human (with smallpox symptoms) where the patient sample was not first combined with any other source of genetic material (i.e. a cell line; fetal bovine serum).*

*Please note that 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 already 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 records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum, or private patient records.*

*I simply request records that describe purification of the alleged virus (separation from everything else in the patient sample as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other very small things).*

*My request includes any study/report matching the above description, authored by anyone, anywhere.*

*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.*

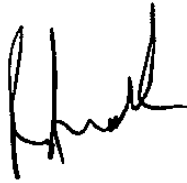
A search of our records failed to reveal any documents pertaining to your request.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6246 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services

(OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration 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](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, via the online portal at <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx>. Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope "FOIA Appeal." Your appeal must be electronically transmitted by April 5, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Andoh', is positioned above the typed name.

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

#22-00343-FOIA