



February 4, 2021

Via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Response & Time Extension Letter
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Our File No: PHSA F20-0844; F21-0903

I write in response to your December 21, 2020 request for records made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSBC 1996, (the "Act").

Request

You requested the following records (the "Request"):

1) *All records in the possession, custody or control of "Provincial Health Services Authority" 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 aka Vero cells; fetal bovine serum). 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, and/or*
- *the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), and/or*
- *the sequencing of something*

Please note also that my request is not limited to records that were authored by anyone at "Provincial Health Services Authority" or that pertain to work done by "Provincial Health Services Authority." My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study authored by anyone, anywhere, ever that the "Provincial Health Services Authority" has downloaded or printed. 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 record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it.

2) *All records in the possession, custody or control of "Provincial Health Services Authority" describing the cycle thresholds used in PCR testing protocols (for determining negative vs. indeterminate vs. positive) throughout British Columbia for "COVID-19."*

3) *All records in the possession, custody or control of "Provincial Health Services Authority" that describe or list or explain the gold standard(s) used in assessments of "COVID-19" PCR tests used in British Columbia.*

4) All records in the possession, custody or control of "Provincial Health Services Authority" that describe or list or explain the **gold standard(s)** used in assessments of "COVID-19" **antibody tests** used in British Columbia.

5) All records in the possession and custody of "Provincial Health Services Authority" detailing the PCR testing and subsequent **cycle threshold used to conduct PCR testing** throughout British Columbia.

Phase One Response

Concerning part 1 of the Request:

After consulting with individuals at BC Centre for Disease Control no records were found in response to this part of your request.

Phase Two & Notice of Time Extension

The remainder of the Request, parts 2 through 5, will follow under separate cover under this file #: **F21-0903**.

Phase Two requires searching through a large number of records and doing so within the current time limits of your Request would unreasonably interfere with the operations of PHSA. Section 10(1)(b) of the Act allows for a public body to extend the time limit for its response by an additional 30 business days in a circumstance like this.

The revised response date for your request is **March 19, 2021**.

Section 10(1)(b) of the Act states:

Extending the time limit for responding

10 (1) The head of a public body may extend the time for responding to a request for up to 30 days if one or more of the following apply:

[...]

(b) a large number of records are requested or must be searched and meeting the time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the public body;

A copy of the Act is available online at:

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (the "OIPC") is the regulator of access and privacy laws in the province. If you have a concern with any decision in the processing of the Request you have the right to request a review of PHSA's decision from the OIPC. For ease of reference, information about the OIPC is included in Appendix A of this letter.

Additionally, should you have any questions about this letter, please contact the author at Megan.Williams@phsa.ca or (604) 317-0955.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Megan Williams
Freedom of Information Advisor
Information Access & Privacy Services
Provincial Health Services Authority

Appendix A: How to Request a Review

Under section 52 of the Act, you may request a review by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) of any decision, action or failure to act by PHSA in responding to your request.

If you wish to request a review, you must contact the OIPC in writing within 30 business days of your receipt of this letter and provide the OIPC with:

1. Your name, address and telephone number;
2. A copy of the original request that you sent;
3. A copy of this letter; and
4. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

All inquiries should be directed to:

By Mail:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia
PO Box 9038, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9A4

By Email: info@oipc.bc.ca

By Tel: (250) 387-5629

By Fax: (250) 387-1696

Callers outside Victoria can contact the office toll-free by calling Enquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867 and requesting a transfer to (250) 387-5629.

Freedom of Information Request SARS-COV-2 New Virus Variant

Thu, Dec 31, 2020 at 6:33 PM

To: privacyandfoi@phsa.ca

December 31, 2020

To: Provincial Health Services Authority - Email: privacyandfoi@phsa.ca
Provincial Health Services,
[200 - 1333 West Broadway](#),
Vancouver, BC
V6H 4C1

Attn: Senior Director, Information Access & Privacy Services

This is a formal request made under

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

[RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 165

Description of Requested Records:

All records in the possession, custody or control of Provincial Health Services Authority that:

- describe the isolation of the [alleged] *genetic variant of the* [alleged] *virus that* [allegedly] *causes* [the alleged disease referred to as] *COVID-19* [allegedly] *identified in the United Kingdom*, 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 aka vero cells; fetal bovine serum).

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" refers instead to:

- the culturing of something, or
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or
- the sequencing of something.

- describe the **discovery (not manufacture / fabrication / creation / assembly / alignment / trimming / mapping)** of the alleged genome for this alleged particular *new variant of coronavirus*;
- describe how this alleged *new variant of coronavirus* relates to the alleged "SARS-COV-2";
- include **any** additional analysis/investigation into this alleged "*new variant*".

Please note that my request is **not** limited to records that were authored by agents of Provincial Health Services Authority, or to records that pertain to work done by agents of the Provincial Health Services Authority; it includes **any** sort of record, authored by anyone, anywhere, ever.

If any records match the above descriptions 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 record with certainty (i.e. author; title; date; publisher); please provide URLs where possible.

Format:

URLs and/or pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me.

Contact Information:

Last Name: [REDACTED]

First Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance and best wishes.

Happy New Year

February 11, 2021

Via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: **Response Letter**
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Our File No: PHSA F20-0855

I write in response to your December 31, 2020 request for records made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSBC 1996, (the "Act").

Request

You requested the following records (the "Request"):

All records in the possession, custody or control of Provincial Health Services Authority that:

- describe the isolation of the [alleged] genetic variant of the [alleged] virus that [allegedly] causes [the alleged disease referred to as] COVID-19 [allegedly] identified in the United Kingdom, 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 aka vero cells; fetal bovine serum).

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" refers instead to:

- the culturing of something, or
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or
- the sequencing of something
- describe the discovery (not manufacture / fabrication / creation / assembly / alignment / trimming / mapping) of the alleged genome for this alleged particular new variant of coronavirus;
- describe how this alleged new variant of coronavirus relates to the alleged "SARS-COV-2";
- include any additional analysis/investigation into this alleged "new variant".

Phase One Response

BC Centre of Disease Control confirms that there are no records that describe the isolation of the SARS-CoV-2 variant identified in the United Kingdom, directly taken from a symptomatic patient, where the patient sample was not first combined with any other

source of genetic material, because in order to cultivate a virus it has to replicate in a cell, as a DNA or RNA virus can never be cultivated on its own.

A copy of the Act is available online at:

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Phase Two

The remainder of the Request will follow in the next phase of this request under our file # F21-0912.

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia (the "OIPC") is the regulator of access and privacy laws in the province. If you have a concern with any decision in the processing of the Request you have the right to request a review of PHSA's decision from the OIPC. For ease of reference, information about the OIPC is included in Appendix A of this letter.

Additionally, should you have any questions about this letter, please contact the author at glimongelli@phsa.ca or 604-829-2514.

Sincerely,



Genevieve Limongelli
Freedom of Information Advisor
Information Access & Privacy Services
Provincial Health Services Authority