

May 17, 2021

Via email to fevancouver@outlook.com

Mak Parhar

Dear Mak Parhar:

**Re: Response Letter
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Our File No: PHSA F21-0998**

I write in response to your April 26, 2021 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 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; 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, or*
- the performance of an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test), or*
- the sequencing of something.*

To clarify, I am requesting all such records that are in the possession, custody or control of British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (for example: downloaded to a computer, printed in hard copy, etc.).

If the BCCDC has a access to any other agencies record, please forward them as well.

Response

The BC Centre for Disease Control confirms that there are no records that describe the isolation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus directly taken from a diseased 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

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

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.