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**Re: Final Decision - FOI Sensitive Request # A-2021-00236 / CG (COVID-19 Records)**

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Wed, Nov 3, 2021 at 3:34 PM

To: "Gapski, Chris (MOH)" <Chris.Gapski@ontario.ca>

Cc: "Babos, John (MOH)" <John.Babos@ontario.ca>, "Gartshore, Jason (MOH)" <Jason.Gartshore@ontario.ca>

Hello, can I have this response on formal letterhead sent by pdf, not an email response.

Thank you.

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**From:** Gapski, Chris (MOH) <Chris.Gapski@ontario.ca>

**Sent:** November 3, 2021 3:23 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Babos, John (MOH) <John.Babos@ontario.ca>; Gartshore, Jason (MOH) <Jason.Gartshore@ontario.ca>

**Subject:** Final Decision - FOI Sensitive Request # A-2021-00236 / CG (COVID-19 Records)

Dear [REDACTED]

I am replying to your access request made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act)*, for the following information:

1. Breakdown by month of the number of hospitalized Covid patients that had; 0 doses of vaccine; 1 dose of vaccine; 2 doses of vaccine // 2. Breakdown by month of the number of Covid deaths that had : 0 doses of vaccine; 1 dose of vaccine; 2 doses of vaccine // 3. Breakdown by month of the PCR cycle rate used to test : unvaccinated persons; persons with 1 dose of vaccine; persons with 2 doses of vaccine // 4. Total number of patients by month admitted to Sunnybrook and McMaster field hospitals // 5. Scientific evidence there is no risk to eating maskless in a restaurant vs the risk and need to wear a mask walking to the table or using the restaurant washroom // 6. Scientific evidence of benefits of eating donuts to boosting immunity against covid // 7. Scientific evidence that movie shoots are an 'essential service' vs cancer screenings or surgeries // 8. Scientific evidence the Delta strain has been isolated and a PCR test can distinguish the Delta variant from other

Time Period: 2021/03/01 to 2021/07/31

Clarified Request:

5. Scientific evidence there is no risk to eating maskless in a restaurant vs the risk and need to wear a mask walking to the table or using the restaurant washroom  
6. Scientific evidence of benefits of eating donuts to boosting immunity against covid  
7. Scientific evidence that movie shoots are an 'essential service' vs cancer screenings or surgeries  
8. Scientific evidence the Delta strain has been isolated and a PCR test can distinguish the Delta variant from other strains of Covid 19

Time Period: 2021/03/01 to 2021/07/31

Per your email, subsequent to the submission of your request above, a search was conducted for all items (1-8) in your request, not just the clarified items (5-8). However, this is to inform you that

no responsive records were located. A reasonable search of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health/Public Health Division was conducted and no responsive records were found. Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health/Public Health Division is responsible for this decision.

The cost for the search in accordance to Regulation 460 are minimal and have been waived under section 57(4) of *the Act*.

However, although the ministry does not maintain records responsive to the specific questions posed in your request, the links provided below provide information that may contribute to answering some of your questions:

- As you're likely aware, the [Roadmap to Reopen](#) was the province's three-step plan to lift the public health measures and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic safely and gradually. This roadmap, along with the documents linked within the roadmap, including the [Regulation 364/20: RULES FOR AREAS AT STEP 3 AND AT THE ROADMAP EXIT STEP](#), provide insight into factors/data points that the government considered/monitored in imposing and now lifting COVID-19 restrictions.
- With respect to question 5 in your request, regarding masks, the [About COVID-19 non-medical masks](#) document from Public Health Agency of Canada and Public Health Ontario's [COVID-19: Non-medical Masks and Face Coverings](#) document, along with the further resources linked within those documents, provide information on why masks are recommended/mandated by Public Health organizations throughout Canada and how masks contribute to preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- With respect to question 7 in your request, [Directive 5](#), as well as the [associated memo from Ontario Health to Hospital CEOs](#), provides authority under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to ramp down scheduled surgeries in order to free up bed capacity and enable to redeployment of staff, and the Directive itself, and documents linked within the Directive, provide some of the rationale for this "ramp down."
- Per questions 3 and 8 in your request, the Ministry does not directly conduct laboratory research and therefore, does not have original microscopic images of viral isolates, but you can find more information about how PCR tests are administered in Ontario and throughout Canada at the following links:
  - [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) – PCR](#) – information on PCR testing in Ontario from Public Health Ontario.
  - [COVID-19 testing, screening and contact tracing](#) – information on PCR testing throughout Canada from the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- Finally, with regard to question 8 in your request, more information on tracking variants of concern, including the Delta variant, in Ontario and throughout Canada, can be found at the following links:
  - [SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19 Virus\) Variant of Concern \(VoC\) Surveillance](#) – information on variants of concern in Ontario from Public Health Ontario.
  - [SARS-CoV-2 variants: National definitions, classifications and public health actions](#) – information on variants of concern throughout Canada from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Additionally, you may wish to contact Public Health Ontario as they may have records responsive to your request. They may be reached at:

Privacy Officer  
Public Health Ontario  
[661 University Avenue, Suite 1701](#)  
[Toronto, ON M5G 1M1](#)

You may request a review of this decision by the Information and Privacy Commissioner [2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto ON M4W 1A8](#). Please note that you have 30 days from the date of this letter to request a review. In the event that you do seek a review, please provide the Commissioner's Office with:

1. The request file number: A-2021-00236 / CG
2. A copy of this decision letter.
3. A copy of your original request.
4. A cheque or money order in the amount of \$25.00 payable to the Minister of Finance.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [chris.gapski@ontario.ca](mailto:chris.gapski@ontario.ca) or 416-568-0173.

Sincerely,

Chris Gapski  
Consultant, Access & Privacy