



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333  
May 8, 2020

Aaron Siri  
Siri and Glimstad, LLP  
200 Park Avenue  
Seventeenth Floor  
New York, New York 10166  
Via email: aaron@sirillp.com

Dear Mr. Siri:

This letter is regarding 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 April 29, 2020, assigned #20-01462-FOIA, for:

**All emails sent or received by the following people between November 1, 2019 and the present that include the term SARS-CoV, COVID, COVID-19 or coronavirus in any portion of the email, including the body, subject, metadata, sender line, or recipient line of the email, or any attachment to the email.**

- **Robert Redfield**
- **Anne Schuchat**
- **Nancy Messonnier**
- **Frank DeStefano**

This letter is to notify you that you have not submitted a proper FOIA request because your request is overly broad and lacks the specificity needed to assist the agency retrieve the information with a reasonable amount of effort. To assist the agency, locate the records you are requesting, we need you to provide the following additional information:

- Provide the names, titles and domain names of the sender and recipient of the emails you are seeking
- Specify the subject of the emails you are seeking as they relate to - SARS-CoV, COVID, COVID-19 and/or coronavirus
- Provide the name or subject and date of the exact email you are interested
- Provide a narrowed date range
- Consider omitting news clippings and information that is publicly available

As you know, you have requested information from the agency's top personnel involved in the fight against COVID-19 and they generate large volumes of records every day. The key words you have provided as search terms are very common at this point.

In order to get you responsive information in the most timely manner possible, we ask that you be as specific as possible about the records/information you seek, rather than asking for broad categories of records containing only the name/nickname of the virus. Searches using only those terms cannot be performed with reasonable effort.

### **Fees and Fee Waivers**

I have determined that your request for a waiver of fees does not meet the following criteria:

- It will not reveal meaningful information about government operations or activities that are not already public knowledge.
- The disclosure of the records will not contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government.
- You have failed to demonstrate that you disseminate information to the public.
- You have failed to provide sufficient information to warrant a waiver of fees.

### **Fee Category**

The FOIA and HHS FOI regulations allow agencies to recover part of the costs of processing FOIA requests. There may be a charge for these records. You have been classified as a:

**All Other Requester and as such, you will be charged search fees after two hours and duplication fees. You may also be charged for page duplication if you elect to receive any responsive records in hard copy (10 cents/page).**

At this time, your request has been placed on hold until we receive the information requested.

If you fail to submit a proper FOIA request by **June 4, 2020**, we will close your request.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 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 by writing to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Suite 729H, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may also transmit your appeal via email to [FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov). Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope “FOIA Appeal.” **Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted by August 6, 2020.**

Sincerely,

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

20-01462-FOIA