

## **FDA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

February 3, 2022

Food and Drug Administration  
Division of Freedom of Information  
Office of the Secretariat, OC  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1035  
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: *COVID-19 Infections and Breakthrough Infections in FDA Employees – August 2021 (IR#0696D)*

Dear Sir or Madam:

This firm represents the Informed Consent Action Network (“ICAN”). On behalf of ICAN, please provide the following records to [foia@sirillp.com](mailto:foia@sirillp.com) in electronic form:

**Documents reflecting the number of COVID-19 infections and, of those, the total number of breakthrough infections<sup>1</sup> among Food and Drug Administration employees in the month of August 2021.**

We ask that you waive any and all fees or charges pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). ICAN is a not-for-profit news media organization whose mission is to raise public awareness about vaccine safety and to provide the public with information to give informed consent. As part of its mission, ICAN actively investigates and disseminates information regarding vaccine safety issues for free, including through its website,<sup>2</sup> a weekly health news and talk show,<sup>3</sup> and through press events and releases. ICAN is seeking the information in this FOIA request to allow it to contribute to the public understanding of the government’s vaccine safety programs, including the

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<sup>1</sup> A “breakthrough infection” is “the detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person  $\geq 14$  days after they have completed all recommended doses of a currently FDA-approved or FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine.” <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#:~:text=For%20purposes%20of%20surveillance%2C%20infections,%2Dauthorized%20COVID%2D19%20vaccine.>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.icandecide.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://thehighwire.com/>.

government's efforts to promote vaccine safety. The information ICAN is requesting will not contribute to any commercial activities.

Please note that the FOIA provides that if only portions of a requested file are exempted from release, the remainder must still be released. We therefore request that we be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable. We further request that you describe any deleted or withheld material in detail and specify the statutory basis for the denial as well as your reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies. Please also separately state your reasons for not invoking your discretionary powers to release the requested documents in the public interest. Such statements may help to avoid unnecessary appeal and litigation. ICAN of course reserves all rights to appeal the withholding or deletion of any information.

Access to the requested records should be granted within twenty (20) business days from the date of your receipt of this letter. Failure to respond in a timely manner shall be viewed as a denial of this request and ICAN may immediately take further action.

If you would like to discuss our request or any issues raised in this letter, please feel free to contact Gabrielle G. Palmer at (212) 532-1091 or [foia@sirillp.com](mailto:foia@sirillp.com) during normal business hours. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

*/s/ Aaron Siri*

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Aaron Siri, Esq.

Gabrielle G. Palmer, Esq.