



Christine Massey &lt;cmssyc@gmail.com&gt;

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**FOIA request to CDC re: "influenza virus" purification**

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Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>  
To: FOIARequests@cdc.gov

Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 2:47 PM

March 1, 2021

To:  
Roger Andoh  
Freedom of Information Officer  
1600 Clifton Rd NE MS T-01  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333  
Email: [FOIARequests@cdc.gov](mailto:FOIARequests@cdc.gov)  
Phone: 770-488-6277  
Fax: 770-488-6200

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

This is a formal request for access to general records, made under the *Freedom of Information Act*.

**Description of Requested Records:**

All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) describing the **purification** of any "influenza virus" said to have caused disease in humans (via maceration, filtration and use of an ultracentrifuge; also referred to at times by some people as "isolation"), directly from a sample taken from a diseased human, 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 not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to **purify** the suspected "virus" and instead:

- cultured an unpurified sample or other unpurified substance, and/or
- performed an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test) on all the RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture, or on genetic material from any unpurified substance, and/or
- sequenced the total RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture or from any unpurified substance, and/or
- produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.

For further clarity, please note I am already aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate, and I am **not** requesting records describing the **replication** of a "virus" without host cells.

Further, I am **not** requesting records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum; I am simply requesting records that describe its **purification (separation)** from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other small things).

Please also note that my request is **not limited** to records that were authored by the CDC or ATSDR or that pertain to work done at/by the CDC or ATSDR. Rather, my request includes any record matching the above description, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study authored by anyone, anywhere, ever that has been downloaded or printed by the CDC or ATSDR and possibly (but not necessarily) relied on as evidence of a disease-causing "influenza virus".

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 one with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it). Please provide URLs where possible.

**Format:**

Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not wish for anything to be shipped to me.

**Contact Information:**

Last name: Massey

First name: Christine

Address: 21 Keystone Avenue, Toronto, M4C 1G9

Phone: 905-965-6254

Email: [cmssyc@gmail.com](mailto:cmssyc@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance and best wishes,  
Christine Massey, M.Sc.



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

March 3, 2021

Christine Massey  
: #221 - 93 George St. S.  
Brampton, Ontario L6Y 1P4  
Via email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Massey:

This letter is regarding to your attached Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of March 1, 2021, assigned #21-00788-FOIA.

This letter is to notify you that you have not submitted a proper FOIA request because your request 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: a time frame for the information requested, given that the influenza virus has been known to exist for many, many years; and specify the name or type of influenza virus(es).

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

Please send your response to me at [wzj6@cdc.gov](mailto:wzj6@cdc.gov). If you fail to submit a proper FOIA request by March 31, 2021, we will close your request.

Sincerely,

*Mark Harper*

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

Enclosure

21-00788-FOIA



Christine Massey &lt;cmssyc@gmail.com&gt;

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**Your CDC FOIA Request #21-00788-FOIA**

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Christine Massey &lt;cmssyc@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 12:49 PM

To: MNHarper@cdc.gov

Dear Mr. Harper,

Thank you for this second letter regarding my request for records describing the purification of any "influenza virus" said to have caused disease in humans.

According to the CDC's website:

*Currently circulating influenza A(H1N1) viruses are related to the **pandemic 2009 H1N1 virus** that emerged in the spring of 2009 and caused a flu pandemic ([CDC 2009 H1N1 Flu website](#)). This virus, scientifically called the "A(H1N1)pdm09 virus," and more generally called "2009 H1N1," has continued to circulate seasonally since then...*

And

*The **1968 pandemic was caused by an influenza A (H3N2) virus** ...It was first noted in the United States in September 1968. The estimated number of deaths was 1 million worldwide and about 100,000 in the United States. ...H3N2 virus continues to circulate worldwide as a seasonal influenza A virus ...*

And

*In February 1957, a new **influenza A (H2N2) virus emerged in East Asia, triggering a pandemic** ("Asian Flu")... It was first reported in Singapore in February 1957, Hong Kong in April 1957, and in coastal cities in the United States in summer 1957. The estimated number of deaths was 1.1 million worldwide and 116,000 in the United States.*

And

*The **1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus** with genes of avian origin. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in spring 1918. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.*

Therefore please limit my request to:

- the 2009 pandemic influenza virus ("A(H1N1)pdm09") (timeframe: January 1, 2009 - present)
- the 1968 pandemic influenza A virus (H3N2) virus (timeframe: January 1, 1968 - present)
- the 1957-1958 pandemic influenza A (H2N2) virus (timeframe: January 1, 1957 - December 31, 1958)
- the 1918 pandemic influenza H1N1 virus (timeframe: January 1, 1918 - December 31, 1919).

Thank you and best wishes,  
Christine

[Quoted text hidden]



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333  
April 12, 2021

Ms. Christine Massey  
21 Keystone Avenue,  
Toronto, M4C 1G9  
Via email: [cmssyc@gmail.com](mailto:cmssyc@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Massey:

This letter is in response 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 March 1, 2021, for:

***Description of Requested Records:***

*All studies and/or reports in the possession, custody or control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) describing the **purification** of any "influenza virus" said to have caused disease in humans (via maceration, filtration and use of an ultracentrifuge; also referred to at times by some people as "isolation"), directly from a sample taken from a diseased human, 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 not requesting studies/reports where researchers failed to **purify** the suspected "virus" and instead:*

- cultured an unpurified sample or other unpurified substance, and/or*
- performed an amplification test (i.e. a PCR test) on all the RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture, or on genetic material from any unpurified substance, and/or*
- sequenced the total RNA from a patient sample or from a cell culture or from any unpurified substance, and/or*
- produced electron microscopy images of unpurified things.*

*For further clarity, please note I am already aware that according to virus theory a "virus" requires host cells in order to replicate, and I am **not** requesting records describing the **replication** of a "virus" without host cells.*

*Further, I am **not** requesting records that describe a suspected "virus" floating in a vacuum; I am simply requesting records that describe its **purification** (**separation** from everything else in the patient sample, as per standard laboratory practices for the purification of other small things).*

*Please also note that my request is **not limited** to records that were authored by the CDC or ATSDR or that pertain to work done at/by the CDC or ATSDR. Rather, my request includes any record matching the above description, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study authored by anyone, anywhere, ever that has been downloaded or printed by the*

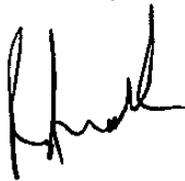
*CDC or ATSDR and possibly (but not necessarily) relied on as evidence of a disease-causing "influenza virus".*

A search of our records failed to reveal any documents pertaining to your request. Specifically, the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases searched and found no records regarding the requested specified records.

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 July 11, 2021.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

#21-00788-FOIA



Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

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## Your CDC FOIA Request #21-00788-FOIA

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Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 10:02 AM

To: MNHarper@cdc.gov

Thank you Mr. Harper.

You may recall that with this request you had asked me to specify particular "influenza viruses", and so I had specified the 4 "pandemic viruses" listed on the CDC's website.

Should this response be interpreted as pertaining only to those 4 "viruses", or all "influenza viruses"?

Thank you and best wishes,  
Christine

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Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

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## Your CDC FOIA Request #21-00788-FOIA

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**Harper, Mark Neville (CDC/OCOO/OD)** <wzj6@cdc.gov>  
To: Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 10:07 AM

Hi, it applies to your original request as written. Thanks.

Mark Harper

CDC FOIA Analyst

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