

September 18, 2020

Christine Massey
#221 - 93 George St. S.
Brampton ON L6Y 1P4
via e-mail: cmssyc@gmail.com

Dear Christine:

RE: Freedom of Information Request # 20-03 – Decision Letter

I am writing regarding your access request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”), received on July 17, 2020, as follows:

All records in the possession, custody or control of Mount Sinai Hospital 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; lung cells from a lung cancer patient).

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.*

*Please also note that my request is **not limited** to records that:*

- *were authored by Mount Sinai Hospital researchers, or*
- *pertain to work done by Mount Sinai Hospital researchers, or*
- *pertain to work done at Mount Sinai Hospital.*

My request includes any sort of record, for example (but not limited to) any published peer-reviewed study that Mount Sinai Hospital has downloaded or printed.

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 record with certainty (i.e. title, author(s), date, journal, where the public may access it.



I have again reviewed your request, as well as your e-mail of August 26, 2020 clarifying the records that you are seeking, with experts at Sinai Health who have significant knowledge and experience in respect of the isolation of viruses as well as SARS-CoV-2. We do not interpret the clarification that you have provided to change the substance of your request.

As set out in my letter of August 25, 2020, isolation of a virus in the manner that you have described is not possible for any virus, including SARS-CoV-2; it is not within the scope of current scientific processes. For this reason, and based on a reasonable search for responsive records, Sinai Health is satisfied that the records you are seeking do not exist.

You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
1400 - 2 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8

The appeal fee is \$25.00, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance and must be included with your correspondence. Please note that you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request a review by the Commissioner.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesstina McFadden".

Jesstina McFadden

Director, Privacy and Information Access (Interim)

416-586-4800 x 5886

Jesstina.McFadden@sinaihealth.ca