



FOIA Case No.: 2020-00754-FOIA-OS
American Oversight vs HHS, FDA, NIAID,
& CMS, 1:20-cv-01063-APM

April 5, 2022

Sent via email

Mr. Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is the Department's response to your March 2, 2020, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Specifically, you requested:

All final directives, orders, decision memoranda, or guidance from President Trump, Vice President Pence, or any staff of the Executive Office of the President (including anyone on White House Staff, in the Office of the Vice President, or on the staff of the National Security Council) regarding public statements, public appearances, website updates or changes, or communications or press strategy on the coronavirus, COVID-19.

In order to search for records responsive to your request, our office sent your request to several offices, including the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

For this release, we reviewed the final 358 pages of records potentially responsive to your request and determined none were relevant to your request and contained documents related to public health releases such as access to COVID testing and related subjects. Additionally, eighteen pages previously referred to another agency for disclosure review, are being released according to the completed review with portions redacted pursuant to Exemption (b)(6) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. §§ 552).

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption.

This release completes the review of responsive documents as narrowed by the plaintiff. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and/or the processing of your request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and the Department of Justice Attorney representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alesia Y. Williams

Alesia Y. Williams

Director, FOIA Appeals and Litigation

FOI/Privacy Act Division

Enclosure: 18 pages

From:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
To:	Evaluation Only. Created with Aspose.HTML. Copyright 2013-2020 Aspose Pty Ltd.OHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>; <Devin.O'Malley@treasury.gov>
CC:	Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e5ee4c35534c4af9bdac46789c034790-Oakley, Cai <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>
Subject:	RE: Azar in the crosshairs for delays in virus tests
Date:	2020/03/02 19:22:44
Due Date:	2020/03/01 19:00:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Yes please distribute this to anyone who has reached out on this

"The Vice President is incredibly proud of the work Secretary Alex Azar is doing in marshalling HHS through the Coronavirus." – Katie Miller, VP Press Secretary

From: Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Devin.O'Malley@treasury.gov
Cc: Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA) <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>
Subject: Fwd: Azar in the crosshairs for delays in virus tests

Any way we can get a positive quote from team on this. I believe our bosses connected on this?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: POLITICO Pro Health Care <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Date: March 2, 2020 at 1:03:03 PM EST
To: "Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS)" <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Subject: Azar in the crosshairs for delays in virus tests
Reply-To: "POLITICO subscriptions" <reply-fe971c727160017c75-553241_HTML-880489367-1376319-273518@politicoemail.com>

Azar in the crosshairs for delays in virus tests

By Dan Diamond, Adam Cancryn

03/02/2020 01:00 PM EST

Even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention takes blame for testing delays that may have led to hundreds of Americans being quietly infected with the coronavirus, officials inside the health department and the White House are increasingly pointing the finger at one leader: Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, who they say failed to coordinate the response, as agency chiefs waited for instructions that came too late and other deputies were largely cut out of the process.

Numerous problems with the Trump administration's testing regimen have come to light: Coronavirus [tests developed by CDC were flawed](#), possibly because the [lab itself was contaminated](#). The resulting lack of test capacity forced U.S. officials to screen a [limited number of patients](#) across January and February, with the CDC testing fewer than 500 Americans at the same time that China was likely testing at least 1 million of its own residents. Meanwhile, public health officials had no fallback testing option until the Food and Drug Administration granted approval for hospitals and other labs to develop their own homegrown tests on Saturday — more than six weeks after the first U.S. case of coronavirus was identified.

Public health officials acknowledge that CDC and other parts of the government have repeatedly stumbled in the early days of the outbreak, but say that the 52-year-old Azar, a former drug company executive who took over the department in 2018, did not reach out early or often enough to goad his subordinates into action.

"This was a management failure," said one administration official, charging that Azar didn't adequately plan for a worst-case coronavirus scenario that's grown more likely by the day — even though Azar touted his bona fides as a veteran of the George W. Bush administration, where he helped fight crises like SARS and an anthrax scare. "CDC and FDA should have been working hand-in-hand to get Plan B, Plan C and Plan D ready to go," the official said.

"The administration's response has been reactive, not proactive," added a former HHS official. "A lot of what has happened has been driven by outside pressure," like public health labs sounding the alarm that they were unable to perform the CDC's tests.

Azar was abruptly removed as leader of the U.S. government's coronavirus response last Wednesday night and replaced by Vice President Mike Pence. The health secretary is still technically chairing the coronavirus task force, but decision-making, media requests and even task force membership have increasingly been run through the White House. Since Azar's removal as coronavirus-response leader, several of his deputies and rivals have been added to the task force.

POLITICO spoke to 17 current and former officials and individuals close to the Trump administration. Interviews with officials in HHS, who declined to comment on record for fear of retaliation, indicated that Azar's failure to reach out to a wider circle of advisers is typical of his management style, which has grown increasingly distrustful of his own aides.

The surgeon general is supposed to be the nation's chief spokesperson on threats to public health,

but Surgeon General Jerome Adams had been little seen or heard from during the coronavirus threat until Azar was removed from leading the effort last week. Pence immediately added Adams to the task force, and the surgeon general this weekend began [issuing coronavirus guidance on social media](#) and appearing on national TV programs.

The FDA oversees drug and lab test development, but Commissioner Stephen Hahn also wasn't included on the Azar-led task force and has been frequently sidelined during the crisis. Hahn's most notable public moment was being summoned out of the crowd by Pence on Saturday to answer a question directed to President Donald Trump during a White House press conference.

Pence also added Hahn to the coronavirus task force after growing upset during a recent meeting that nobody could adequately answer a question about threats to the nation's drug supply, two people with knowledge of the situation said.

While Hahn's agency on Saturday did roll out instructions to let certain health organizations develop their own coronavirus lab tests, "FDA has been trying for some time to issue that guidance," said one official, who added that the agency was waiting on approval from HHS and Azar. Another official said Hahn had begun devising the strategy weeks ago.

An HHS spokesperson defended Azar's leadership and the administration's broader strategy of trying to contain the virus across January and February, arguing that it bought valuable time to prepare the nation for an outbreak.

"HHS has been working with public health systems since day 1 — that's how we've been catching these cases and educating the American public on what to do if they become symptomatic," the spokesperson said. "The task force has held countless briefings with members of Congress and state and local leaders, so they can appropriately prepare and educate their constituencies."

Asked if Azar was responsible for the CDC's testing failures, the spokesperson took issue with the framing. "Because of CDC surge capacity, there has been no backlog of tests despite the diagnostic issue," the spokesperson said, referencing problems that prevented many tests from working. "It's unfair to say testing has been limited."

Public health groups have argued there was no testing backlog because CDC capacity problems forced HHS to limit testing to Americans who were returning from China or people close to a confirmed case, rather than expanding the testing more widely — and picking up potential cases of the virus spreading in the community.

The HHS spokesperson also defended Adams' and Hahn's involvement in coronavirus planning, saying that the two officials have been part of coronavirus meetings for weeks. A senior administration official said Hahn particularly has been involved in White House planning.

Senior officials contend that Azar is operating under fear of offending Trump or his allies, which has led him to keep Adams, Hahn and his other underlings on a tight leash, while jockeying for credit to stay in the president's good graces. Azar's widely publicized feud last fall with Medicare chief Seema Verma, which contributed to the department's failure to come up with an alternative to Obamacare and necessitated a series of emergency White House meetings,

highlighted some of these tendencies, the officials said.

Azar and his top aides also have for months frozen out Adams, who is close to Verma, and at times openly questioned Adams' ability to handle basic duties and stay on message. Adams [played down coronavirus fears in a Monday interview](#) on "Fox and Friends," predicting that more people globally would die from the flu.

Azar's supporters dispute that he has undermined Adams. An individual familiar with Azar's thinking said the HHS secretary has a good working dynamic with the surgeon general and the two men recently had lunch together. Azar has been "very impressed" with Adams' recent television appearances and hopes to have him play a larger role on coronavirus messaging, the individual said.

POLITICO on Monday morning [reported that Verma was being added to the task force](#). The individual familiar with Azar's thinking said the health secretary supports her addition to the group and also pushed for bringing Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie on board, arguing that the officials will be important inclusions as coronavirus becomes more of a domestic issue that poses a risk to health systems, the individual said.

Meanwhile, [criticism for the stalled coronavirus tests](#) has mounted on CDC and its director, Robert Redfield, amid that agency's high-profile stumbles in recent weeks. CDC supported [quarantining hundreds of Americans](#) aboard a cruise ship, which backfired as coronavirus rapidly spread on board, and Redfield also took blame for wrongly briefing Trump and Pence on Saturday, leading Trump to [misidentify the first U.S. coronavirus death](#), a man in his 50s, as a "wonderful woman."

But two individuals said Redfield was wrongly being set up by some HHS officials as the fall guy for the administration's biggest coronavirus misstep — the lab-testing failure — arguing that the CDC chief had worked to speed the tests while advocating for a fallback lab-testing option but was waiting on Azar's permission to move forward on Plan B. "He's great on this," said one senior administration official, adding that Redfield is "busting his ass with a very hard job [and] working harder than any other senior official at HHS."

An HHS spokesperson said that CDC was taking steps to improve testing. "CDC and FDA have been working together to correct the issue with the diagnostic in a timely manner and worked together to make alternatives more readily available that meet the appropriate accuracy standards for testing," the spokesperson said.

The health department's slow response also has set off a round of finger-pointing among top officials and Azar's deputies, reigniting longstanding feuds at a crucial moment when the Trump administration needs to work in lockstep. Officials at CDC and Robert Kadlec, the HHS assistant secretary for preparedness and response, have jockeyed over coronavirus quarantine rules and evacuating at-risk Americans, the latest skirmish between two agencies that have spent years battling over which gets to be in charge of the nation's emergency medical stockpile.

White House officials also have clashed with Azar and accused him of giving overly optimistic guidance to Trump, a battle that dates back a year and [has encompassed numerous policies](#). Meanwhile, an HHS whistleblower and an FDA scientist have stepped forward to warn that the

department's coronavirus response has been disorganized and could put Americans at risk. Azar has said he supports whistleblowers and vowed full investigations.

The disjointed, at-times-chaotic coronavirus response has alarmed allies of the HHS secretary, who worry Azar will ultimately shoulder much of the blame within the administration and from the public for failing to contain the outbreak.

The public health crisis threatens to become the defining episode of Azar's tenure, people close to him lamented in recent days, overshadowing more than two years of work on various policy initiatives and linking his legacy as health secretary to the administration's struggles to combat a fast-spreading virus that could linger for months — potentially infecting thousands, disrupting Americans' daily lives and grinding to a halt the once-strong economy that Trump officials view as key to the president's reelection.

“Right now, there's probably hundreds or low thousands of cases ... that aren't reported yet,” Trump's former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said on “Face the Nation” Sunday, referencing a new estimate of spreading coronavirus in Washington state. “One of the mistakes, one of the challenges was getting the diagnostic testing in place.”

Having failed to track and quash isolated cases, it may be too late to now guard against a widespread outbreak of coronavirus in the United States. Health officials have increasingly shifted their mindset from “containment” — stopping the virus altogether — to “mitigation,” or preventing the virus' worst effects on Americans. Chris Meekins, a former Trump administration HHS emergency-preparedness official, on Sunday said the risk of significant U.S. outbreaks had risen from 33 percent to 75 percent in the last week alone.

Azar's job is not believed to be in imminent jeopardy, people close to the White House said, in part because firing the nation's top health official in the midst of an outbreak would prompt further questions about the administration's response effort.

But Azar — who already has few friends within the White House, which weighed a [list of potential replacements](#) in December — has been further weakened internally by his brief period leading Trump's coronavirus task force, during which he battled repeatedly with national security staffers over strategy and frustrated White House officials who at times questioned whether he was withholding information.

Meanwhile, Azar's attempts to publicly play down the risks of the virus — saying for weeks that there were just more than a dozen U.S. cases — were criticized by some officials as too-optimistic at the time and, in retrospective, seen as incautious. The HHS secretary repeated the message across four congressional hearings last week and national TV briefings, even as it turned out the virus was silently spreading in the United States.

“Focusing on just 15 cases was a tragic health care disservice,” said a former HHS official. “Hospitals and health providers needed to know about the risks and get ready to take more steps.”

Sarah Karlin-Smith contributed to this report.

To view online:

><https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=13c23606-4f973f15-13c20739-0cc47adb5650-50edb88603fadf50&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=d80b4bef-845f62c4-d80b7ad0-0cc47a6d17cc-978a0257da1f1845&u=https://subscriber.politicopro.com/health-care/article/2020/03/azar-in-the-crosshairs-for-delays-in-virus-tests-1886862><

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Sender:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>; <Devin.O'Malley@treasury.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e5ee4c35534c4af9bdac46789c034790-Oakley, Cai <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>
Sent Date:	2020/03/02 19:22:33
Delivered Date:	2020/03/02 19:22:44

From:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
To:	Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3793ae43a1744d8f8aa56b600c0c975b-patricia.co <conradpa@niaid.nih.gov>
CC:	Harrison, Brian (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d145efc9c35c4865aca6e9d47786b204-Harrison, B <Brian.Harrison@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>; Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e5ee4c35534c4af9bdac46789c034790-Oakley, Cai <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Subject:	FW: 60 Minutes request
Date:	2020/03/02 14:43:20
Due Date:	2020/03/01 19:00:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Hey guys – Who cleared this?

Until we can figure out how to better coordinate – please pull this down.

From: Farhi, Arden <FarhiA@cbsnews.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Grisham, Stephanie A. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Deere, Judd P. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Cc: @Wash Booth <WashBooth@cbsnews.com>; Brennan, Katie <BrennanK@cbsnews.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 60 Minutes request

Hi Steph and co -

60 Minutes is crashing a piece for this Sunday on coronavirus and NIH's response. They are speaking with Dr. Fauci later this week. Assuming there is a coronavirus briefing tomorrow (Tuesday), 60M hoped to send a crew so they can capture Dr. Fauci in action with POTUS and VPOTUS (something the pool camera may not film necessarily).

To be clear, they'd like to shoot the smaller briefings that have typically been held in the cabinet room. (We can obviously cover the briefing room encounters without additional access).

It would be two people from 60 Minutes - camera and sound - in the room.

Could we make arrangements to include the 60M crew? I've cc'd producer Katie Brennan if you need further explanation.

Thanks,

Arden

Arden Farhi
White House producer
CBS News

(b)(6)

Sender:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3793ae43a1744d8f8aa56b600c0c975b-patricia.co <conradpa@niaid.nih.gov>; Harrison, Brian (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d145efc9c35c4865aca6e9d47786b204-Harrison, B <Brian.Harrison@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>; Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e5ee4c35534c4af9bdac46789c034790-Oakley, Cai <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/02 14:43:09
Delivered Date:	2020/03/02 14:43:20

From:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
To:	Evaluation Only. Created with Aspose.HTML. Copyright 2013-2020 Aspose Pty Ltd.(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e5ee4c35534c4af9bdac46789c034790-Oakley, Cai <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>
Subject:	Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Trish Regan Primetime Interview Request
Date:	2020/03/01 14:26:12
Due Date:	2020/02/29 19:00:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

No to Fauci. Trying to get someone else

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Henning, Alexa A. EOP/WHO" <(b)(6)>
Date: March 1, 2020 at 2:24:25 PM EST
To: "Robinson, Michael" <(b)(6)>
Cc: "Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP" <(b)(6)>, "Caitlin B. Oakley" <Caitlin.Oakley@hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Trish Regan Primetime Interview Request

Hi Michael adding others on this request. Not sure tomorrow works but will be in touch
 Thx
 Alexa

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2020, at 2:02 PM, Robinson, Michael <(b)(6)> wrote:
 Could the NIH Director be available to talk Coronavirus during our 8 PM ET hour?
 Michael Robinson
 Fox Business Network
 C (b)(6)

Sent from my iPad

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Sender:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	Oakley, Caitlin B. (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e5ee4c35534c4af9bdac46789c034790-Oakley, Cai <Caitlin.Oakley@HHS.GOV>
Sent Date:	2020/03/01 14:25:56
Delivered Date:	2020/03/01 14:26:12

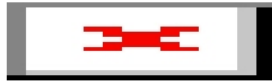
From:	O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
To:	Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9e6fa4be928e48408ba114add868123e-Galatas, Ka <kkg2@cdc.gov>; Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=458a7c66b66a4e9ca7bc1963da0bcb81-michelle.bo <meb0@cdc.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
CC:	Miller, Katie R. (b)(6) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8d70f057d51e48b0ac17ad37c7f7e0ba-(b)(6); (b)(6); Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Subject:	RE: Quick Question
Date:	2020/03/19 16:30:42
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Adding Ninio to make sure that he clarifies that on tonight's call.

From: Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC) <kkg2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:23 PM
To: O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) <meb0@cdc.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Cc: Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Quick Question

I honestly missed that email of yours on Saturday, Devin. The daily OVP sync calls are focused on TV/radio, as was previous guidance, so we weren't working with this understanding. I will work with leadership here at CDC, along with Bill and Ryan, to see how we best achieve this. Take care,
Kate

Kate Galatas, MPH
Deputy Associate Director for Communication
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office: 404-639-2064
Cell: (b)(6)
Email: kkg2@cdc.gov



24-7 Logo__EMAIL_Small (002)

From: O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC) <kkg2@cdc.gov>; Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) <meb0@cdc.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Cc: Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Quick Question

I think we've said it a few times and in the email attached; bare minimum, we should have visibility into what stories are coming out about the response. We didn't hit a number of key messaging points in this response, which is disappointing.

From: Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC) <kkg2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:03 PM
To: O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) <meb0@cdc.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Cc: Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: Quick Question

Hi, Devin –
We weren't aware that we were being asked to clear print interview requests, so we did not send this to OVP.
Take care,
Kate

Kate Galatas, MPH
Deputy Associate Director for Communication
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office: 404-639-2064
Cell: (b)(6)
Email: kkg2@cdc.gov



24-7 Logo__EMAIL_Small (002)

From: O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC) <kkg2@cdc.gov>; Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) <meb0@cdc.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Cc: Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Subject: Quick Question

Hi CDC-

My I ask who at OVP cleared on this quote that was sent to James Rosen at Sinclair and who was made aware of Rosen's story?

"CDC rapidly developed a diagnostic test for CDC and the nation's public health labs for surveillance. Today, more than 89 public health labs in 50 states and the district of Columbia are using the COVID-19 test.

"Recognizing the vast majority of Americans would be tested in clinical settings, CDC encouraged our government partners to work with the private sector to develop diagnostic tests for commercial use and to remove restrictions for CLIA labs in hospitals across the county.

"CDC continues to be actively engaged with the White House Coronavirus Task Force, led by the Vice President.

"We regret that some are being misinformed during a time when CDC and our U.S. government partners are working 24/7 to protect Americans, their families, and their communities."

Thanks!

Devin

Devin M. O'Malley

(b)(6)

Sender:	O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9e6fa4be928e48408ba114add868123e-Galatas, Ka <kkg2@cdc.gov>; Bonds, Michelle E. (CDC/OD/OADC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=458a7c66b66a4e9ca7bc1963da0bcb81-michelle.bo <meb0@cdc.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>; Stecker, Judy (OS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>;

	Miller, Katie R. (b)(6) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8d70f057d51e48b0ac17ad37c7f7e0ba (b)(6) (b)(6); Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Sent Date:	2020/03/19 16:25:14
Delivered Date:	2020/03/19 16:30:42

From:	Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
To:	Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2dd951edf9be461f93276b338e2b0b08-jennifer.ro (b)(6); Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Love, Kelly A. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Daravi, Roma S. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
CC:	Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb5c51123f2f41b98b61a37383994a8d-courtney.bi (b)(6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d2241aa54aa341ceb7ff993d88eba4df-kathy.stove (b)(6); Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3793ae43a1744d8f8aa56b600c0c975b-patricia.co (b)(6); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Subject:	RE: Interview for ASAP clearance
Date:	2020/03/12 12:36:44
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

If this is someone you all regularly engage with and it is not unique to COVID-19, then that is fine.

From: Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Love, Kelly A. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Daravi, Roma S. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Cc: Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <Bill.Hall@HHS.GOV>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview for ASAP clearance

OK. Can I let them know that they can schedule this for next week? To clarify, the JAMA audience is physicians and scientists, as opposed to a lay audience. The discussion is not about COVID-19 response (that would be covered in Dr. Fauci's interviews) but rather novel ways of designing vaccines. The vaccine Dr. Graham developed for COVID-19 uses a new gene-based technology, an advance from the more traditional approaches of live-attenuated virus or inactivated whole virus.

Jennifer Routh [E]
 News and Science Writing Branch
 Office of Communications and Government Relations
 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

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(b)(6)

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From: Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Love, Kelly A. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Daravi, Roma S. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Cc: Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <Bill.Hall@HHS.GOV>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview for ASAP clearance

Let's hold.

From: Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <Devin.M.O'Malley@ovp.eop.gov>; Love, Kelly A. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Daravi, Roma S. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>
Cc: Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <Bill.Hall@HHS.GOV>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Subject: Interview for ASAP clearance

Good morning –

Dr. Barney Graham, deputy director, NIAID Vaccine Research Center (developer of the investigational vaccine for COVID-19 that is about to enter clinical testing) was previously cleared through HHS channels to film an interview with the online news site for the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, a prestigious peer-reviewed medical journal. Dr. Graham is an expert on new vaccine technologies and will describe the possible advantages of using these techniques in efforts to quickly develop vaccines for emerging diseases.

The interview had not been previously scheduled but JAMA would like to talk with Dr. Graham today via Skype. Is this OK for him to do? Please let us know as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Jen

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Sender:	Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>
Recipient:	Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2dd951edf9be461f93276b338e2b0b08-jennifer.ro <(b)(6)>; Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Love, Kelly A. EOP/OVP <(b)(6)>; Daravi, Roma S. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb5c51123f2f41b98b61a37383994a8d-courtney.bi <(b)(6)>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d2241aa54aa341ceb7ff993d88eba4df-kathy.stove <(b)(6)>; Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3793ae43a1744d8f8aa56b600c0c975b-patricia.co <(b)(6)>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Murphy, Ryan (OS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=314e69c69a844b47bdd9f74bc60a8d44-Murphy, Rya <Ryan.Murphy1@hhs.gov>
Sent Date:	2020/03/12 12:34:39
Delivered Date:	2020/03/12 12:36:44

From:	Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
To:	Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
CC:	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
	O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
Subject:	Reminder re: TV/Radio Bookings	
Date:	2020/03/06 12:47:12	
Priority:	Normal	
Type:	Note	

Hi everyone—

Thank you to those who have already submitted interview requests. As a reminder, please continue sending all coronavirus-related TV/radio booking requests to me, Katie, and Devin.

Thank you,
Ninio

—

Ninio J.H. Fetalvo

Office of the Vice President

(b)(6) (no text)

Sender:	Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
Recipient:	Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
	Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
	O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2020/03/06 12:46:56	
Delivered Date:	2020/03/06 12:47:12	