
From: "Wright, Erin" <erin.wright@dph.ga.gov> on behalf of DPH-Open Records <DPH-OpenRecords@dph.ga.gov>
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 4:10 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: [Ext]RE: Open Records Request (GA-DPH-20-1137)

Ms. Wishingrad,

The Department is in receipt of your request. Please see our responses below.

REQUEST 1: All instructions, directives, orders, decision memoranda, or guidance regarding (a) the Department of Public Health's (DPH) collection of COVID patients' racial or ethnic identities during testing and/or treatment and (b) the omission of a question identifying a patient's race or ethnicity on COVID testing registration forms.¹

Please provide all responsive records from March 1, 2020 through the date the search is conducted.

Response: The Department does not have any responsive records.

REQUEST 2: All email communications (including complete email chains, email messages, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent to or received by any of the officials in Georgia Department of Public Health listed below regarding (a) DPH collection of COVID patients' racial or ethnic identities during testing and/or treatment and (b) the lack of data on the race of coronavirus patients as of approximately April 17, 2020.

a. Commissioner Kathleen Toomey b. Executive Assistant to the Commissioner/Board Coordinator, Hurriyah Lewis c. Division of Health Protection Director, Pat O'Neal d. State Epidemiologist and Chief Science Officer, Cherie Drenzek e. State Laboratory Director, Elizabeth Franko f. Director of Government Relations, Megan Andrews

Response: On March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of COVID-19. The Georgia Department of Public Health is heavily involved in the State's response to this novel disease and is currently devoting the majority of its time and resources to the COVID-19 response to ensure the health and safety of Georgia citizens.

The Department likely has public records responsive to your request. Although the duration of the Public Health State of Emergency is unknown, the Department anticipates providing a response to your request within 30 days after a declaration by Governor Kemp that the emergency has ended. Please note that the Department does not waive any applicable exemptions from disclosure under the Open Records Act that may apply to your request. See O.C.G.A. § 50-18-71(d). The Department appreciates your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

Thanks,

Erin

Erin Wright
Associate General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone 404-463-3770

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:22 PM
To: DPH-Open Records <DPH-OpenRecords@dph.ga.gov>
Subject: Open Records Request (GA-DPH-20-1137)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Open Records Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Georgia's open records laws.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wishingrad
Paralegal
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PRR: GA-DPH-20-1137