



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

January 19, 2022

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
Via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is our final 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 8, 2021, assigned #21-00831-FOIA, for:

All messages, including complete comment threads and reactions, contained within the “COVID-19 Discussion Forum” SharePoint site.

In an effort to limit the volume of responsive records, to the extent your agency maintains this data in aggregated form, such as in a spreadsheet or within a database or other format that can be readily exported to a spreadsheet, American Oversight requests responsive data in such format.

Please provide all responsive records from November 15, 2020, through February 28, 2021.

We located 4 pages of responsive records. After a careful review of these pages, no information was withheld from release. The National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) provided the requested documents in table format. The program indicated that the discussion forum was not used extensively and that many of the posts received no response in the forum.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of the records provided please contact either our FOIA Requester Service Center at 770-488-6399 or our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277.

Sincerely,

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

21-00831-FOIA

Title: Project Firstline - Learning Needs Assessment (LNA), additional questions added by states or jurisdictions
Posted by: Kipp Stahl (Kipp.Stahl@state.sd.us) (L3)
Date and Time: 1/26/2021, 5:44 PM

South Dakota is starting to compile our Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) for project Firstline. I am aware of the sample survey Instrument, REDCap Version, and Spanish version available on the Project Firstline SharePoint.

South Dakota plans to modify this survey (specifically to further assess education and training of Infection Preventionist), and was wondering if other states/jurisdictions could share additional questions that they placed in their assessment? If you could share your questions below, or E-mail them to me at kipp.stahl@state.sd.us, that would be appreciated.

Thank You,

Kipp Stahl

Text: Kipp.stahl@state.sd.us

Reply #: 1 of 1

Reply By: Andrew Hennenfent (andrew.hennenfent@idph.iowa.gov) (L2)

Reply Date: 2/4/2021, 9:55 AM

I just closed our survey in Iowa and have started a tentative data analysis. The only additional question I added was the primary county where the HCP worked. I thought this might help us identify gaps in certain areas of the state.

We administered our survey via REDCap. We sent out a hyperlink plus a QR code that HCP could scan to immediately access the survey. Our Department of Inspections and Appeals delivered paper copies of a one-pager promoting the survey for facilities to put in their breakrooms. I think this helped get more respondents since they could scan the code and take the

Reply Text: survey right on their phone.

Title: Assess Germ Theory in Learning Needs Assessment (LNA)

Posted by: Christine Mulgrew (CMulgrew@pa.gov) (L3)

Date and Time: 12/2/2020, 8:19 AM

Text: Has anyone come up with question(s) to assess knowledge of germ theory? CDC requested that the report about HCWs based on this survey include this area, but their survey didn't include a question about this.

Reply #: N/A

Reply By: N/A

Reply Date: N/A

Reply Text: N/A

Title: Oncology clinic guidance
Posted by: Carolyn Ham (carolyn.ham@doh.wa.gov) (L2)
Date and Time: 11/23/2020, 7:33 PM

CDC staff suggested we post our question here, as they didn't have any specific guidance to share with us. We are interested in any resources specific to infection control in oncology clinics related to COVID-19, and/or if any other states are doing outreach to oncology currently. We are looking to do increased outreach to this facility type and would appreciate any help you can provide.

Text: Thanks - Carolyn (Washington State)

Reply #: N/A
Reply By: N/A
Reply Date: N/A
Reply Text: N/A

Title: Tool for evaluating patient exposure to a COVID+ HCW

Posted by: Anna Frick (anna.frick@alaska.gov) (L3)

Date and Time: 6/10/2020, 7:10 PM

Text: Does anyone have a helpful tool for assessing patients exposed to a COVID-positive HCW or dental worker? I always struggle when the infectious person is the one wearing PPE

Reply #: 1 of 2

Reply By: Marika Mohr (Marika.Mohr@odh.ohio.gov) (L3)

Reply Date: 11/25/2020, 9:59 AM

I was hoping someone had answered your question already, as i have concerns about this as well. Despite the increased training of HCWs and greater availability of PPE (relative to the general population), there are still many instances of improper use, "forgetting," or reusing PPE in quarantine/non-COVID-19 units without cleaning etc. for me to feel confident

Reply Text: that HCWs really do not expose residents/patients.

Reply #: 2 of 2

Reply By: Cara Bicking-Kinsey (cbickingki@pa.gov) (L3)

Reply Date: 12/3/2020, 3:23 PM

We don't have a tool and also continue to struggle with this, but in general we say that if the HCW is infectious, the patients should be notified and considered exposed if they meet close contact definition or have brief close contact that's close to unprotected eyes, nose, mouth (such as dental exam, eye exam, etc.). Our dental exposure HAN has some wording that might be helpful? <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2020-PAHAN-521-08-13-ADV%20->

Reply Text: %20Dental%20Ex.pdf