AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

July 15, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Danica Hoppes
Agency Open Records Officer
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Rm. 825, Health & Welfare Bldg.
625 Forester St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120
PADOHRTK@pa.gov

Re: Right-to-Know Law Request

Dear Open Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law (RTKL), as codified at 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following records within five business days:

1. All formal and informal directives, guidance, protocols, plans, procedures, and policies created by, issued to, or otherwise provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Health on how to prevent, prepare, detect, and/or respond to public health incidents, risks, threats, and emergencies associated with the 2026 FIFA World Cup including, but not limited to, potential exposures and disease outbreaks.

   For part 1 of this request, please provide all responsive records created, received, or in effect from January 1, 2026, to the date the request is received.

2. All email communications sent or received by any of the officials listed below, and/or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as an assistant, secretary, or chief of staff, and containing any of the key terms listed below.

   Pennsylvania DOH Officials:
   a. Dr. Debra Bogen, Secretary
   b. Kristen Rodack, Executive Deputy Secretary
   c. Cindy Findley, Deputy Secretary, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
   d. Anyone serving in the capacity of Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology

e. Barry Ciccocioppo, Director of Communications

Key Terms:

i. FIFA
ii. "World Cup"
iii. soccer
iv. "mass gathering"
v. "disease spread"
vi. outbreak
vii. measles
viii. cyclosporiasis
ix. cyclospora

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that this request specifically excludes, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. For example, if a specific individual received a mass-distribution news clip email containing the term "World Cup", that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if that specific individual forwarded that email to another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

For part 2 of this request, please provide all responsive records from May 1, 2026, through the date the search is conducted.

If American Oversight's request for a fee waiver, is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination. **Please notify us of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of $100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.**

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 65 P.S. § 67.1307(f)(2), American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records, because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest."

The public has a significant interest in the steps state and local health departments are taking to prevent, prepare for, detect, and respond to the spread of infectious diseases at FIFA World Cup games and events.[1] Records with the potential to shed light on this

[1] *See, e.g.*, Lena Sun, *The Infectious Diseases that Experts Worry Could Spread During the World Cup*, The New York Times, Jun. 10, 2026, https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2026/06/10/infectious-diseases-experts-worry-could-spread-during-world-cup/; Alice Park, *The World Cup Is Bringing Millions to the U.S. Should You Worry About Infectious Diseases?*, TIME, Jun. 12, 2026, https://time.com/article/2026/06/12/world-cup-infectious-diseases/; Meghan Holohan, *The Behind-the-Scenes Work of Protecting World Cup Fans from Infectious Diseases*, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy, Jun. 12, 2026,

matter would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including how agency officials are anticipating possible threats to the public's health, enhancing public health surveillance, and increasing readiness.[2]

American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to open records requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).[3]

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.[4] Examples reflecting this commitment include the posting of records related to the first Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;[5] posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;[6] posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the first Trump administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and

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https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/public-health/behind-scenes-work-protecting-world-cup-fans-infectious-diseases.

[2] *See, e.g.*, Lauran Neergaard, *Health Sleuths in Philly, Other Cities are Watching for Disease Threats During the World Cup*, Spotlight PA, Jun. 10, 2026, https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2026/06/world-cup-disease-outbreak-measles-health-surveillance/; Mariacristina Calcagno, *CHOP Physicians Warn World Cup Crowds Could Heighten Infectious Disease Risk in Philadelphia*, The Daily Pennsylvanian, Jun. 11, 2026, https://www.thedp.com/article/2026/06/penn-medicine-chop-measles-world-cup-infectious-disease.

[3] American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 94,200 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Jun. 29, 2026); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), https://x.com/weareoversight (last visited Jun. 29, 2026).

[4] *See generally Our Latest*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.

[5] *The Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.

[6] *See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus; *see, e.g.*, *CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.

analyses of what those records reveal;[7] the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers;[8] and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.[9]

Finally, this request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest.

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. For instance, if the request seeks "communications," please search all locations likely to contain communications, including relevant hard-copy files, correspondence files, appropriate locations on hard drives and shared drives, emails, and shared messages systems such as Slack.

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, or printed material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, letters, emails, facsimiles, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.

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[7] *See generally Audit the Wall*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; *see, e.g.*, *Audit the Wall: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall*, American Oversight, https://americanoversight.org/audit-the-wall-no-plans-funding-or-timeline-and-no-wall/.

[8] *DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal*, American Oversight, https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25544090-doj-records-relating-to-solicitor-general-noel-franciscos-recusal-american-oversight; *Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents.

[9] *See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense; *see, e.g.*, *New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State*, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state.

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.

- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Right-to-Know Law.[10]

- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records under 65 P.S. § 67.706. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not

[10] *See, e.g.*, *Barkeyville Borough v. Stearns*, 35 A.3d 91, 95–97 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2012).

understand any part of this request, please contact Loree Stark at records@americanoversight.org or (304) 913-6114. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Loree Stark
Loree Stark
on behalf of
American Oversight