

February 23, 2022

Shelly D Hipson
RR3
Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Dear Shelly D Hipson:

Re: You are entitled to the information you requested - 2022-00109-HEA

The Department of Health and Wellness received your application for access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act) on January 21, 2021.

In your application, you requested a copy of the following records:

- 1. I would like to request all records, studies, data, evidence and proof that COVID-19 is a "disease of the unvaccinated." (What support does the department have when they/Dr. Robert Strang - makes this statement to prove that this statement is true?)*
- 2. Please provide all records, studies, data, evidence and proof that the unvaccinated are straining the health care system in Nova Scotia due to having COVID-19 more so than the vaccinated.*
- 3. Of those who tested positive for COVID-19 in hospital, please provide a breakdown of those who were*
 - a) asymptomatic*
 - b) symptomatic. (Date Range for Record Search: From 12/19/2020 To 01/19/2022)*

Responsive data for part 2 of this request have been located and are attached.

For part 1, evidence of relative risk of infection, hospitalization and death between vaccinated and unvaccinated people is based on publicly available national and international guidance as well as published literature.

For part 3, the department does not have data for whether those who tested positive in hospital are symptomatic or asymptomatic.

You have the right to ask for a review of this decision by the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner (formerly the Review Officer). You have 60 days from the date of this letter to exercise this right. If you wish to ask for a review, you may do so on Form 7, a copy of

which is attached. Send the completed form to the Information Access and Privacy Commissioner, P.O. Box 181, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4.

Please be advised that a de-identified copy of this disclosure letter and the attached response to your FOIPOP application will be made public after 14 days. The package will be posted online at <https://openinformation.novascotia.ca/>. The letter will not include your name, address or any other personal information that you have supplied while making your application under FOIPOP.

Please contact Tim Gregory at 902-424-3773 or by e-mail at timothy.gregory@novascotia.ca, if you need further assistance regarding this application.

Sincerely,



Craig Beaton
Associate Deputy Minister

Attachment

FOIPOP Request 2022-10109-HEA

Data Notes:

- Data source is Panorama and includes data for December 16, 2020 to January 19, 2022
- Cases captured in this dataset are those that meet the Public Health Agency of Canada case definition (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/national-case-definition.html#dec>) :

Confirmed case

A person with confirmation of infection with SARS-CoV-2 documented by:

- The detection of at least 1 specific gene target by a validated laboratory-based nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) assay (e.g. real-time PCR or nucleic acid sequencing) performed at a community, hospital, or reference laboratory (the National Microbiology Laboratory or a provincial public health laboratory)
or
- The detection of at least 1 specific gene target by a validated point-of-care (POC) NAAT that has been deemed acceptable to provide a final result (i.e. does not require confirmatory testing)
or
- Seroconversion or diagnostic rise (at least 4-fold or greater from baseline) in viral specific antibody titre in serum or plasma using a validated laboratory-based serological assay for SARS-CoV-2

- Vaccine status definitions:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Unvaccinated | Individuals meeting the national confirmed case definition of COVID-19 and having illness onset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <14 days post first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine • After having received 0 doses of any COVID-19 vaccine |
| Partially vaccinated | Individuals meeting the national confirmed case definition of COVID-19 and have illness onset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • =>14 days post first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine or • <14 days post second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine |
| Fully vaccinated | Individuals meeting the national confirmed case definition of COVID-19 and have illness onset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >=14 days post second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine |

Request:

1. I would like to request all records, studies, data, evidence and proof that COVID-19 is a "disease of the unvaccinated." (What support does the department have when they/Dr. Robert Strang - makes this statement to prove that this statement is true?)

2. Please provide all records, studies, data, evidence and proof that the unvaccinated are straining the health care system in Nova Scotia due to having COVID-19 more so than the vaccinated.

Of those who tested positive for COVID-19 in hospital, please provide a breakdown of those who were

a) asymptomatic

b) symptomatic. (Date Range for Record Search: From 12/19/2020 To 01/19/2022)

For the defined period, unvaccinated Nova Scotians represented approximately 19% of COVID-19 hospital admissions, despite representing (as of today) less than 10% of the total population. In terms of mortality, unvaccinated Nova Scotians were 30% of all deaths during the indicated window (again, representing less than 10% of the population).

| Week Of | Hospitalizations (Unvaccinated) | Hospitalizations (1 Dose Effective) | Hospitalizations (2 Dose Effective) | Hospitalizations (3 Dose Effective) |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 21Dec2020 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28Dec2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| 25Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 1Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| 22Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 1Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8Mar2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| 22Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 5Apr2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| 12Apr2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 7 |
| 19Apr2021 | 7 | <5 | 9 | 14 |
| 26Apr2021 | 5 | <5 | 23 | 31 |
| 3May2021 | 10 | 6 | 23 | 20 |
| 10May2021 | 7 | 8 | 21 | 17 |
| 17May2021 | <5 | 0 | 18 | 7 |
| 24May2021 | <5 | <5 | 6 | <5 |
| 31May2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7Jun2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 14Jun2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21Jun2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28Jun2021 | <5 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 5Jul2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12Jul2021 | 0 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| 19Jul2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26Jul2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30Aug2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6Sep2021 | 9 | <5 | <5 | 0 |
| 13Sep2021 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| 20Sep2021 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 |
| 27Sep2021 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 |
| 4Oct2021 | <5 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| 11Oct2021 | <5 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| 18Oct2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| 25Oct2021 | 0 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1Nov2021 | 6 | <5 | 6 | <5 |
| 8Nov2021 | 6 | <5 | 5 | 0 |
| 15Nov2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22Nov2021 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 |
| 29Nov2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| 6Dec2021 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| 13Dec2021 | <5 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| 20Dec2021 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 |

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|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| 27Dec2021 | <5 | <5 | 11 | 9 |
| 3Jan2022 | 7 | <5 | 16 | <5 |
| 10Jan2022 | 10 | <5 | 37 | 8 |
| 17Jan2022 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 6 |

| Week Of | Deaths (Unvaccinated) | Deaths (1 Dose Effective) | Deaths (2 Dose Effective) | Deaths (3 Dose Effective) |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 21Dec2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28Dec2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25Jan2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22Feb2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15Mar2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29Mar2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5Apr2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12Apr2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19Apr2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26Apr2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3May2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10May2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17May2021 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| 24May2021 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 |
| 31May2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7Jun2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14Jun2021 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| 21Jun2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28Jun2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5Jul2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12Jul2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19Jul2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26Jul2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23Aug2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30Aug2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6Sep2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13Sep2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20Sep2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 27Sep2021 | <5 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 4Oct2021 | <5 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 11Oct2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18Oct2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25Oct2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1Nov2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8Nov2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 15Nov2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 22Nov2021 | <5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29Nov2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 6Dec2021 | 0 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| 13Dec2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20Dec2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 27Dec2021 | 0 | 0 | <5 | 0 |
| 3Jan2022 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|---|----|----|
| 10Jan2022 | <5 | 0 | 5 | <5 |
| 17Jan2022 | <5 | 0 | <5 | <5 |

| Week Of | At Least 1 Dose Effective (%) | At Least 1 Dose Effective (%) | At 3 Dose Effective (%) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 21Dec2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28Dec2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4Jan2021 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 |
| 11Jan2021 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 |
| 18Jan2021 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 |
| 25Jan2021 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0 |
| 1Feb2021 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0 |
| 8Feb2021 | 1 | 0.3 | 0 |
| 15Feb2021 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0 |
| 22Feb2021 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 0 |
| 1Mar2021 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0 |
| 8Mar2021 | 1.9 | 1.2 | 0 |
| 15Mar2021 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 0 |
| 22Mar2021 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 0 |
| 29Mar2021 | 3.7 | 1.8 | 0 |
| 5Apr2021 | 5.1 | 2.2 | 0 |
| 12Apr2021 | 7.8 | 2.7 | 0 |
| 19Apr2021 | 9.7 | 3.2 | 0 |
| 26Apr2021 | 13.9 | 3.5 | 0 |
| 3May2021 | 19.7 | 3.7 | 0 |
| 10May2021 | 26.5 | 4 | 0 |
| 17May2021 | 30.9 | 4.2 | 0 |
| 24May2021 | 36.1 | 4.3 | 0 |
| 31May2021 | 42.4 | 4.5 | 0 |
| 7Jun2021 | 50 | 4.7 | 0 |
| 14Jun2021 | 58 | 5 | 0 |
| 21Jun2021 | 63.6 | 5.3 | 0 |
| 28Jun2021 | 69.3 | 6.4 | 0 |
| 5Jul2021 | 73.8 | 10.9 | 0 |
| 12Jul2021 | 74.9 | 21 | 0 |
| 19Jul2021 | 75.5 | 32.1 | 0 |
| 26Jul2021 | 76.3 | 44.3 | 0 |
| 2Aug2021 | 76.9 | 53.1 | 0 |
| 9Aug2021 | 77.7 | 60.6 | 0 |
| 16Aug2021 | 78.3 | 66 | 0 |
| 23Aug2021 | 78.8 | 69.3 | 0 |
| 30Aug2021 | 79.1 | 70.4 | 0 |
| 6Sep2021 | 79.4 | 71.7 | 0 |
| 13Sep2021 | 79.7 | 73 | 0 |
| 20Sep2021 | 80 | 73.7 | 0 |
| 27Sep2021 | 80.6 | 74.7 | 0 |
| 4Oct2021 | 81.3 | 75.6 | 0 |
| 11Oct2021 | 82 | 76.4 | 0 |
| 18Oct2021 | 82.7 | 77.3 | 0 |
| 25Oct2021 | 83.2 | 78.1 | 0 |
| 1Nov2021 | 84 | 78.9 | 0 |
| 8Nov2021 | 84.4 | 79.7 | 0.1 |
| 15Nov2021 | 84.8 | 80.3 | 0.4 |
| 22Nov2021 | 85 | 80.9 | 0.7 |
| 29Nov2021 | 85.2 | 81.4 | 0.9 |
| 6Dec2021 | 85.4 | 81.8 | 1.2 |
| 13Dec2021 | 85.6 | 82.2 | 2.2 |
| 20Dec2021 | 86.9 | 82.6 | 3.3 |
| 27Dec2021 | 88.3 | 82.8 | 5.4 |
| 3Jan2022 | 89.4 | 83 | 9.4 |

| | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|
| 10Jan2022 | 89.9 | 83 | 11.8 |
| 17Jan2022 | 90.2 | 83.2 | 14.9 |