

April 13, 2022

Shelly D Hipson
RR3
Shelburne, B0T 1W0

Sent via email: shellyhipson@gmail.com

Dear Shelly Hipson:

Re: You are entitled to the information you requested - 2022-00445-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 March 14, 2022.

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

- 1. Number of COVID-19 tests by month and result (positive cases/negative/total) for year 2020, year 2021 and so far for 2022)*
- 2. Number of COVID-19 Cases by month that were Asymptomatic and Symptomatic and total for each year 2020 and year 2021*
- 3. Number of COVID-19 deaths per month in Nova Scotia for year 2020 and year 2021 and so far in 2022.*

(Date Range for Record Search: From 12/31/2019 To 3/11/2022)

Responsive records have been located and are attached.

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 Melinda Frelick at 902-424-6920 or by e-mail at melinda.frelick@novascotia.ca, if you need further assistance regarding this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Beaton". The signature is stylized with a large "C" and "B".

Craig Beaton
Associate Deputy Minister

Attachment

FOIPOP Request 2022-00445-HEA

Data Notes:

- Data sources are Panorama for symptom status and mortality, and the province's public health lab's line list of completed tests (includes data for 01MAR2020 to 16MAR2022).
 - Data entry of cases during the recent Omicron wave (corresponding roughly from 08DEC2021 to present) is incomplete.
 - Entry of symptom information beyond the first wave is limited.
 - Information from the public health lab pertains only to PCR tests, and not rapid antigen tests.
 - The month of March 2022 is not yet complete, and so neither is the data for this period.
 - PCR test eligibility has been limited for much of the Omicron wave (effective date of eligibility change was 27DEC2021), and only reverted to more broad access in recent weeks.
- Cases captured in Panorama 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

Request:

1. Number of COVID-19 tests by month and result (positive cases/negative/total) for year 2020, year 2021 and so far for 2022)
2. Number of COVID-19 Cases by month that were Asymptomatic and Symptomatic and total for each year 2020 and year 2021
3. Number of COVID-19 deaths per month in Nova Scotia for year 2020 and year 2021 and so far in 2022.
(Date Range for Record Search: From 12/31/2019 To 3/11/2022)

Table 1. COVID-19 PCR tests performed by the Public Health Lab (monthly totals)				
Month of Sample Collection	Positives	Negatives	Pending or Invalid Result	Total
JAN2020	0	1	0	1
FEB2020	0	19	0	19
MAR2020	178	7651	22	7851
APR2020	770	24021	82	24873
MAY2020	96	17748	5	17849
JUN2020	7	15651	8	15666
JUL2020	7	12361	4	12372
AUG2020	19	16101	8	16128
SEP2020	4	28853	7	28864
OCT2020	22	21842	6	21870
NOV2020	223	46040	11	46274
DEC2020	167	46532	8	46707
JAN2021	89	46996	7	47092
FEB2021	62	60890	2	60954
MAR2021	71	85942	12	86025
APR2021	1306	192611	53	193970
MAY2021	2520	197475	138	200133
JUN2021	235	118758	43	119036
JUL2021	59	84107	36	84202
AUG2021	148	87360	44	87552
SEP2021	715	101897	60	102672
OCT2021	696	89841	61	90598
NOV2021	944	91453	71	92468
DEC2021	12108	170493	609	183210

Table 1. COVID-19 PCR tests performed by the Public Health Lab (monthly totals)

Month of Sample Collection	Positives	Negatives	Pending or Invalid Result	Total
JAN2022	18265	102218	837	121320
FEB2022	7548	48836	490	56874
MAR2022	4928	17046	1399	23373

Table 2. Panorama-entered COVID-19 cases by symptom status (monthly totals)

Month of Case Detection	Symptomatic	Asymptomatic	Unknown or Not Entered	Total
MAR2020	144	34	69	247
APR2020	430	266	34	730
MAY2020	54	25	2	81
JUN2020	3	1	3	7
JUL2020	5	1	0	6
AUG2020	1	7	7	15
SEP2020	2	0	1	3
OCT2020	8	4	18	30
NOV2020	38	49	152	239
DEC2020	33	52	71	156
JAN2021	4	27	44	75
FEB2021	6	27	37	70
MAR2021	12	39	39	90
APR2021	166	388	1001	1555
MAY2021	174	585	1571	2330
JUN2021	44	85	101	230
JUL2021	6	21	12	39
AUG2021	6	56	107	169
SEP2021	35	197	526	758
OCT2021	41	256	405	702
NOV2021	63	229	575	867
DEC2021	155	228	2157	2540

Table 3. Panorama-entered COVID-19 confirmed deaths (monthly totals)	
Month of Death	Total
MAR2020	0
APR2020	34
MAY2020	29
JUN2020	1
JUL2020	0
AUG2020	1
SEP2020	0
OCT2020	0
NOV2020	0
DEC2020	0
JAN2021	0
FEB2021	0
MAR2021	1
APR2021	4
MAY2021	16
JUN2021	6
JUL2021	1
AUG2021	1
SEP2021	3
OCT2021	4
NOV2021	9
DEC2021	4
JAN2022	65
FEB2022	45
MAR2022	8

*Positive tests from the public health lab and cases entered into Panorama are largely but not entirely overlapping groups. For much of the pandemic, travelers to the province were routinely tested through the lab, and so are represented in the testing numbers.