

July 26, 2021



Re: We cannot grant your request – 2021-01216-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 June 24, 2021.

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

I wish to receive scientific data used to warrant stay at home order, travel restrictions, border closures and other infringements on citizens rights and freedoms during the covid19 pandemic.

(Date Range for Record Search: From 02/29/2020 To 06/23/2021)

We are refusing access to the records for the following reason pursuant to subsection 4(2) of the Act:

- The Act does not apply to the following kinds of information in the custody or control of a public body:
 - published information, material available for purchase and material that is a matter of public record.

Nova Scotia's Covid -19 response actions have been based on national and international guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). As the leading agencies for pandemic response nationally and internationally, both PHAC and WHO are continuously reviewing the evolving scientific evidence regarding COVID-19 and the effectiveness of various measures. These reviews are used to form their guidance, position statements, and other documents all of which are in the public domain.

The Government of Canada's resources, including COVID-19 guidance documents, are available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

The WHO's resources, including COVID-19 technical guidance, are available at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

The Department of Health and Wellness Public Health Branch continues to be in ongoing contact with PHAC and WHO as evidence has evolved throughout the pandemic. This includes as a participant in federal/provincial/territorial conversations, including committees and networks. This has enabled recommendations on public health measures to be informed by the most up to date evidence.

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 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 Chris Mack at 902-424-0262 or by e-mail at chris.mack@novascotia.ca, if you need further assistance regarding this application.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Lagassé
Associate Deputy Minister