

May 12, 2020

Office of the Commissioner
NH Department of Health & Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: 91A Request

Dear Commissioner Shibiinette;

Last week the Governor stated that early reopening decisions on a downward case trend - when the cases are in fact trending upwards and the CDC recommends a downward trend of 14 days before reopening - raising serious questions about the information the state is relying on to make major public health decisions.

NH needs to be fully transparent with the data being used to make public health decisions.

Under the New Hampshire Right to Know Law R.S.A. Ch. 01-A et seq., we are requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that pertain to:

1. The Long -Term Care Facility case data for staff and residents used to "correct" the upward 14-day trend.
2. Records for all those who tested positive and whether they were symptomatic/asymptomatic at the time of testing.
3. The average time for reporting diagnostic test results from sample date per day.
4. The actual data between April 18 and May 12 that shows a downward trend for both new cases and deaths.
5. Any notes or memos or meeting minutes where this plan to relax Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) was discussed.
6. Any material that might explain or justify the removal of Long-Term Care Facility cases from data used to make any NPI decisions.
7. Any emails that discuss either data trends or the removal of Long-Term Care Facility case data with all stakeholders in NPI state decision process.
8. The total testing rates for each of the counties and towns in NH and positive and negative cases per town, including the percent of tests that are positive by date for each county
9. The rate of confirmed COVID19 cases (per 100,000 people) per county (prevalence).
10. New Patients reported as hospitalized with COVID by date since April 18.
11. COVID-19 case census per hospital.
12. COVID-19 case census per Long Term Care Facility.
13. Records indicating how long it takes, from start to finish, to fully conduct contact tracing on a newly identified positive COVID-19 cases.
14. Written plans that include mitigation strategies, community surveillance, and contact tracing including staff and projected staff requirements assigned to these tasks.
15. Records of deaths indicating which are connected to Long Term Care Facilities and which are not connected to Long Term Care Facilities including the towns/cities in which they reside.
16. With our seasonal influx of people from MA, NY and CT, what steps are you taking to monitor for the potential for rare COVID-linked illnesses in NH children that has been identified in all these states?

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$100. However, we would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Hampshire. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

NH Science and Public Health Task Force

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Cc: Governor Chris Sununu