



March 11, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Public Records Officer  
Washington State Department of Health  
Olympia, WA 98504-7890  
[prd@doh.wa.gov](mailto:prd@doh.wa.gov)

**Re: Public Records Request**

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Public Records Act (PRA), Chapter 42.56 Revised Code of Washington (RCW), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that the Washington State Department of Health produce the following records within five business days:

All records reflecting any directive, order, or guidance from the federal government (including from the Food and Drug Administration or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) not to test for the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, to cease or otherwise stop such testing, or to stop other individuals or entities from carrying out such tests. Emails, letters, memoranda, and notes memorializing telephone calls with federal authorities are responsive to this request.

Publicly available information suggests that Dr. Scott Lindquist, state epidemiologist for communicable diseases, has knowledge of the location of the responsive records.<sup>1</sup>

Please provide all responsive records from January 24, 2020, through March 11, 2020.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in electronic format by email 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Sheri Fink & Mike Baker, *'It's Just Everywhere Already': How Delays in Testing Set Back the U.S. Coronavirus Response*, N.Y. TIMES (Updated Mar. 11, 2020, 10:04 AM), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/10/us/coronavirus-testing-delays.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>.



## Conclusion

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your office on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Dan McGrath at [foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org) or 202.897.4213. Also, if American Oversight may be assessed fees in excess of \$100 please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Austin R. Evers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Austin R. Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight