



February 10, 2021

VIA FACSIMILE

Arizona Governor's Office
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Fax: (602) 542-7601

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

Pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law, A.R.S. §§ 39-121 et seq., American Oversight makes the following request for records.

The novel coronavirus has infected more than 27 million people and resulted in more than 464,000 deaths in the United States alone.¹ In recent months, the speed and volume of infections have reached record highs across much of the country, surpassing 200,000 average new daily cases.² Despite the months-long increase in infections, several state governments are still declining to impose or have only recently imposed public health measures such as mask mandates to mitigate the virus's spread, including in states where the rate of infections is highest.³

American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on Arizona's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following records:

All email communications (including email messages, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by the officials in the Office of the Governor listed in Column A containing any of the key terms listed in Column B:

Column A: Office of the Governor	Column B: Specified Terms
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¹ *Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count*, N.Y. Times (updated Feb. 9, 2021, 7:43 AM), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

² *Id.*

³ Lea Asmelash et al., *Most States Now Require Face Masks to Reduce the Spread of Covid-19. These Are the Ones That Don't*, CNN (updated Dec. 8, 2020, 2:17 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/09/us/biden-mask-mandate-nationwide-trnd/index.html>.



1. Governor Doug Ducey or anyone communicating on his behalf (such as an assistant or scheduler)	1. “herd immunity”
2. Chief of Staff, Daniel Scarpinato	2. “natural immunity”
3. Deputy Chief of Staff, Gretchen Conger	3. “natural infection”
4. Senior Policy Advisor, Christina Corieri	4. “focused protection”
	5. Atlas
	6. Kulldorff
	7. mkulldorff@bwh.harvard.edu
	8. Bhattacharya
	9. jay@stanford.edu
	10. Gupta
	11. sunetra.gupta@zoo.ox.ac.uk
	12. Shahr
	13. shahr@arizona.edu
	14. Barrington
	15. Sweden
	16. Swedish

Please provide all responsive records from September 1, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

American Oversight has limited its request to messages sent by the listed officials to reduce the volume of potentially responsive records. American Oversight still requests complete email chains. So, for example, if one of the listed officials sent a response to an incoming message containing one of the key terms above, the complete email chain containing the initially received message and the response is responsive to this request and should be produced.

Statement of Noncommercial Purpose

This request is made for noncommercial purposes. American Oversight seeks records regarding Arizona public officials’ response to the coronavirus pandemic. Records with the potential to shed light on this issue would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the government, including whether or to what extent the recent surge in infections has influenced the actions of state officials.⁴

Because American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, this request is not in American Oversight’s financial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. American Oversight’s mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on

⁴ See *supra*, notes 1-3.

social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁵

Because this request is made for noncommercial purposes, American Oversight requests that any fees charged in connection with processing this request be limited to copying and postage charges, if applicable.⁶ Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages.
- If any records are withheld in full or in part, pursuant to A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(2), please provide an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld.
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled

⁵ American Oversight currently has approximately 15,600 page likes on Facebook and 105,600 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Feb. 4, 2021); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Feb. 4, 2021).

⁶ A.R.S. § 39-121.01(D)(1); *see also Hanania v. City of Tucson*, 128 Ariz. 135, 624 P.2d 332 (Ct. App. 1980). Furthermore, because this request is for noncommercial purposes, additional fees provided for under A.R.S. § 39-121.03(A) are not applicable and should not be assessed.

basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

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

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Khahilia Shaw at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 539-6507.

Sincerely,

s/s Khahilia Shaw
Khahilia Shaw
on behalf of
American Oversight