

April 13, 2022



Sent via email: [redacted]@[redacted]

Dear [redacted]:

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', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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)
 - o Data entry of cases during the recent Omicron (present) is incomplete.
 - o Entry of symptom information beyond the first wave is limited.
 - o Information from the public health lab pertains only to PCR tests, and not rapid antigen tests.
 - o The month of March 2022 is not yet complete, and so neither is the data for this period.
 - o 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 | 45040 | 11 | 46274 |
| DEC2020 | 167 | 46532 | 8 | 46707 |
| JAN2021 | 89 | 46996 | 7 | 47092 |
| FEB2021 | 62 | 50890 | 2 | 50954 |
| 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 | 111320 |
| 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 |
| (11)AR2020 | 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 | 111 | 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 | 115 | 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 |
| 5EP2020 | 0 |
| ocr2020 | 0 |
| NOV2020 | 0 |
| DEC2020 | 0 |
| JAN2021 | 0 |
| FEB2021 | 0 |
| MAR2021 | 1 |
| APR2021 | 4 |
| MAY2021 | 16 |
| JUN2021 | 6 |
| JUL2021 | 1 |
| AUG20 21 | 1 |
| SEP 202 1 | 3 |
| OCT2021 | 4 |
| NOV2021 | 9 |
| DEC2Q21 | 4 |
| JAN202 2 | 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.