

April 15, 2020

Karla Bishop, Program Director
Freedom of Information Office
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: Public Record Request

Dear Ms. Bishop:

First, on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina, we thank the men and women of the Department of Health and Environmental Control for the tireless work your agency continues to perform to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all South Carolinians. Please express our gratitude to Dr. Toomey as well.

I am writing this letter to request public records pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, §§30-4-30 *et seq.* As South Carolina's lead agency for testing and tracking of the COVID-19 virus, a/k/a the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), your agency is maintaining records of all of the nursing home and assisted care a/k/a assisted living facilities in which confirmed cases have been discovered.

I am requesting that DHEC provide any and all public records, to include electronically stored information, identifying each of the nursing homes or assisted living facilities in South Carolina with a confirmed case of COVID19, or coronavirus (SARS-Cov-2). For purposes of this letter, the term "public documents" refers to anything which would fit the definition of "Public Record" under *Code of Laws of South Carolina* §30-4-20(c) and all South Carolina case law interpreting that statute.

This request is being made in the public interest and not for any purpose of commercial solicitation. We agree to cover the reasonable actual costs of this request up to \$500.00.

This request does NOT include the protected health information of any patient or employee at a nursing home or assisted living facility. This request is only for the corporate names, dates, locations and relevant information regarding the facility in which one or more positive test(s) has been documented.

This request has been submitted to foi@dhec.sc.gov this date, the 15th day of April, 2020. Ten days from today, exclusive of weekends and holidays, will be April 27, 2020.

Sincerely,



Michael Jeffcoat