Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dr. Cohen,

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is investigating the adequacy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) efforts to address laboratory science and safety at CDC’s laboratories. The CDC has failed so far to respond adequately to our June 30, 2023, oversight request letter. HHS, not CDC, sent a November 9, 2023, letter that provided information responsive to only one out of 11 oversight request items.

In our June 30, 2023, letter, we requested information and documents from the CDC related to laboratory science and safety at CDC. So far, the CDC has not produced any of the requested documents. Therefore, we are reiterating these document requests in this letter to expedite our inquiry. Please provide the following by January 8, 2024:

1. Copies of all internal CDC center reports since January 1, 2019, on reviews of laboratory safety at CDC center research facilities.

2. Copies of all reports from the CDC centers since January 1, 2019, sent to the Office of Laboratory Science and Safety (OLSS).

3. Copies of any laboratory safety incident reports since January 1, 2019, related to laboratory-acquired infections or exposure to biological, chemical, radiological or all hazardous agents, or reports related to an animal bite.
4. Copy of a document listing all CDC buildings that contain a laboratory or animal testing facility, and their locations.

5. Copies of all the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) inspection reports since January 1, 2019, related to any CDC laboratory.

6. All documents related to the decision at the CDC as part of the Moving Forward initiative in 2022 to elevate the OLSS to report directly to the CDC director.

7. A copy of a document listing all CDC researchers who maintain an inventory of pathogens that include federal select agents, including the name of the researcher, laboratory and office, identities of the pathogens, and the number of vials of each pathogen.

8. Copies of all CDC select-agent theft, loss, or release reports since January 1, 2019.

9. All documents related to instances of discovery of select agents in unregistered locations at the CDC since January 1, 2019.

10. A copy of a document listing all select agent laboratories designated either biosafety level 3 or 4 located at each CDC campus.

11. A copy of a document listing all individuals at CDC approved for select agent work at each CDC campus.

In order to carry out our Constitutional oversight responsibilities, the Committee is prepared to issue a subpoena if the CDC does not produce the requested documents by January 8, 2024, since the Committee has a right to obtain these materials to aid in its legislative activities and to ensure that the Executive Branch is complying with the law.

If you have any questions, please contact the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce

H. Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
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Brett Guthrie
Chair
Subcommittee on Health

CC: Frank Pallone Jr., Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee
Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations