

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
CHAIRMAN

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

January 19, 2022

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dr. Walensky:

We have learned that the public health agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, are also supporting research activities related to SARS CoV-2 and other coronaviruses.<sup>1</sup> While research on coronaviruses is extremely important, there is a compelling public interest in learning more details about this research. The justification and basis for conducting this research, what measures, if any, are being taken to ensure the safe conduct of this research, and how this research and its funding are being tracked is important for this committee to know.

Accordingly, please provide a list of all proposed,<sup>2</sup> approved, or ongoing research work that your agency is funding in the area of coronaviruses (especially SARS CoV-2) or viruses related to SARS, MERS, or SARS CoV-2 and respond to the following requests by February 16, 2022:

1. Please provide a description of the nature of any research and the identity of the entity conducting the research. If the research is extramural, please provide the name of the entity and the kind of award (grant, contract, etc.).

---

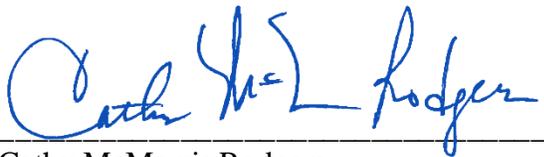
<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/news-events/biden-administration-invest-3-billion-american-rescue-plan-part-covid-19-antiviral>; <https://commonfund.nih.gov/covid19>; <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/coronavirus-covid-19-drugs/coronavirus-treatment-acceleration-program-ctap>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-agenda-covid19.html>

<sup>2</sup> This would include research proposals submitted to Institutional Biosafety Committees, or any other review committees.

2. What are the goals and objectives of the research? How will these goals and objectives be measured or evaluated?
3. Does the research involve virus manipulation, passaging of a virus, genetically modified animals, or making any mutations to a virus?
4. For laboratory research, what biosafety level laboratory is being used, or proposed for use, in the research?
5. What measures are being proposed or taken to ensure the safe conduct of the research? If there is an incident, how will the reporting and resolution of the incident be handled?
6. Please provide the date the research was proposed.
7. Please provide the date the research was approved, if applicable.
8. Please provide the date the research started, if applicable.
9. Please provide the date of first progress report, if applicable.
10. Please identify the source of funding and the authority for funding of this research.
11. How is the funding of this research being tracked?

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Minority Committee staff. Thank you for your attention to this request.

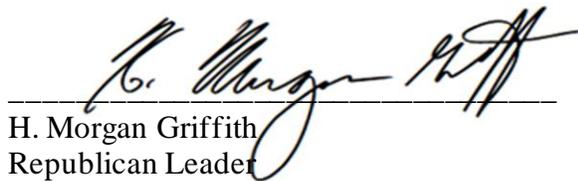
Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Brett Guthrie  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Health



H. Morgan Griffith  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Letter to Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky  
Page 3

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Chair, Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Diana DeGette, Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations