



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

August 24, 2020

Austin Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street NW  
Suite B255  
Washington, District of Columbia 20005  
Via email: [foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org)

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is regarding to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of June 5, 2020, assigned #20-01766-FOIA, for:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, and calendar invitations) between (a) the CDC officials described below and (b) individuals representing the external entities described below.

CDC Officials:

- A. Robert Redfield, Director
- B. Kyle McGowan, Chief of Staff
- C. Jay Butler, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases
- D. Nancy Messonnier, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
- E. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director
- F. John Howard, MD, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

External Entities:

- A. Any representative of Smithfield Foods, including Russ Dokken, Scott Reed, Mark Wiggs, and any individual communicating with email addresses ending in @smithfield.com or @smithfieldfoods.com
- B. Any representative of Consumer Brands Association, including individuals communicating with email addresses ending in @consumerbrandsassociation.org
- C. Any representative of the National Pork Producers Council, including individuals communicating with email addresses ending in @npcc.org
- D. Any representative of the American Association of Meat Processors, including individuals communicating with email addresses ending in @aamp.com
- E. Any representative of JBS, including Christopher Gaddis and any individuals communicating with email addresses ending in @jbssa.com
- F. Any representative of the American Meat Institute or the National Meat Association, including individuals communicating with email addresses ending in @meatinstitute.org (March 15, 2020, through May 15, 2020)

We located 14 pages of responsive records (all pages released in full or in part). After a careful review of these pages, some information was withheld from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 Exemption (b)(6).

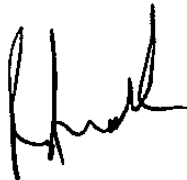
**EXEMPTION 6**

Exemption 6 protects information in personnel and medical files and similar files when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of a personal phone number and we have determined that the individual to whom this information pertains has a substantial privacy interest in withholding it.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Suite 729H, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may also transmit your appeal via email to [FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov). Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope “FOIA Appeal.” Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted by November 22, 2020.

Sincerely,



Roger Andoh  
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
(770) 488-6399  
Fax: (404) 235-1852

Enclosures

20-01766-FOIA

**From:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 20:24:21 +0000  
**To:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB); Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Agnes Warner (CDC/OD/OCS) (bli8@cdc.gov); Dennehy, Heather (CDC/OD/OCS); Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD); chris.delacy@hklaw.com; klombardo@smithfield.com; ksullivan@smithfield.com; Skahill, Michael P.  
**Subject:** Call with Dr. Redfield, CDC Director and Smithfield Foods

**From:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 20:24:24 +0000  
**To:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB);Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI);chris.delacy@hklaw.com;Warner, Agnes (CDC/OD/OCS);Dennehy, Heather (CDC/OD/OCS);klombardo@smithfield.com;ksullivan@smithfield.com;Skahill, Michael P.  
**Subject:** Call with Dr. Redfield, CDC Director and Smithfield Foods

**From:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 20:37:41 +0000  
**To:** 'ksullivan@smithfield.com'  
**Subject:** Canceled: Call with Dr. Redfield, CDC Director and Smithfield Foods  
**Importance:** High

**From:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 20:37:42 +0000  
**To:** ksullivan@smithfield.com  
**Subject:** Call with Dr. Redfield, CDC Director and Smithfield Foods

**From:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 20:38:05 +0000  
**To:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB); Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Warner, Agnes (CDC/OD/OCS); Dennehy, Heather (CDC/OD/OCS); 'chris.delacy@hklaw.com'; 'klombardo@smithfield.com'; 'Skahill, Michael P.'; 'ksullivan@smithfield.com'  
**Subject:** Call with Dr. Redfield, CDC Director and Smithfield Foods

**From:** Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI)  
**Sent:** Tue, 28 Apr 2020 20:08:48 +0000  
**To:** Sullivan, Ken; Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD); Lombardo, Keira; Skahill, Michael P.  
**Cc:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB); Warner, Agnes (CDC/OD/OCS)  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you

Yes, on a state call for another 20 mins. 430?

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**From:** Sullivan, Ken <[ksullivan@smithfield.com](mailto:ksullivan@smithfield.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD) <[olx1@cdc.gov](mailto:olx1@cdc.gov)>; Lombardo, Keira <[klombardo@smithfield.com](mailto:klombardo@smithfield.com)>; Skahill, Michael P. <[mshahill@smithfield.com](mailto:mshahill@smithfield.com)>  
**Cc:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB) <[dvt1@cdc.gov](mailto:dvt1@cdc.gov)>; Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI) <[hfw3@cdc.gov](mailto:hfw3@cdc.gov)>; Warner, Agnes (CDC/OD/OCS) <[bli8@cdc.gov](mailto:bli8@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you

Henry,  
Do you have 5 minutes to talk? I will make it quick. Thank you, Ken

(b)(6)

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**From:** Sullivan, Ken  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 9:55:43 PM  
**To:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD) <[olx1@cdc.gov](mailto:olx1@cdc.gov)>; Lombardo, Keira <[klombardo@smithfield.com](mailto:klombardo@smithfield.com)>; Skahill, Michael P. <[mshahill@smithfield.com](mailto:mshahill@smithfield.com)>  
**Cc:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB) <[dvt1@cdc.gov](mailto:dvt1@cdc.gov)>; Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI) <[hfw3@cdc.gov](mailto:hfw3@cdc.gov)>; Warner, Agnes (CDC/OD/OCS) <[bli8@cdc.gov](mailto:bli8@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you

Thank you. We appreciate the dialogue. Our industry needs help; I'm heartened to hear your intention to apply practicality as we attempt to keep our food chain intact. Ken

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**From:** Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD) <[olx1@cdc.gov](mailto:olx1@cdc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:23 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, Ken <[ksullivan@smithfield.com](mailto:ksullivan@smithfield.com)>; Lombardo, Keira <[klombardo@smithfield.com](mailto:klombardo@smithfield.com)>; Skahill, Michael P. <[mshahill@smithfield.com](mailto:mshahill@smithfield.com)>  
**Cc:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB) <[dvt1@cdc.gov](mailto:dvt1@cdc.gov)>; Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI) <[hfw3@cdc.gov](mailto:hfw3@cdc.gov)>; Warner, Agnes (CDC/OD/OCS) <[bli8@cdc.gov](mailto:bli8@cdc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear Ken,

Thank you for taking the time to talk today. We look forward to working with you and your team, you can reach me directly via this email.

I have copied Henry and Dough if you have additional questions, and my assistant Agnes who can help set up follow up discussions as needed.

Peace,



## Bob Redfield

This communication (including any attachments) is confidential and is intended to be privileged pursuant to applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, then you are hereby notified that the dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify Smithfield Foods, Inc. immediately by telephone (+1 757-365-3000) and then delete this communication and destroy all copies thereof.

**From:** Howard, John (CDC/NIOSH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thu, 7 May 2020 14:57:33 +0000  
**To:** mflemming@smithfield.com  
**Cc:** Honesty, Nicole (CDC/NIOSH/OD);Hearl, Frank J. (CDC/NIOSH/OD);Corbin, Alfreda (CDC/NIOSH/OD) (CTR)  
**Subject:** Letter  
**Attachments:** LTR.Fleming.7.May.2020.pdf



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
National Institute for Occupational  
Safety and Health (NIOSH)  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Suite 9200, Patriots Plaza  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
PHONE: (202) 245-0625  
FAX: (202) 245-0628

May 7, 2020

Mr. Michael Fleming  
Chief Legal Officer  
Smithfield Food, Inc.  
200 Commerce St.  
Smithfield, Virginia 23430  
[mflemming@smithfield.com](mailto:mflemming@smithfield.com)

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2020 concerning the proactive measures Smithfield Foods, Inc. has taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your workplaces. I appreciate the summary of the policies and protocols Smithfield Foods has instituted. Among the many important measures you have described, the new tools to enhance communications between employees and management are innovative and impressive. Perhaps we could arrange a follow-up conversation some time in the future so that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) staff could learn more about those tools, how they have worked, and whether similar tools might be useful in other workplace settings.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NIOSH recognize and appreciate the critical role your company, the tens of thousands of employees, and your farming and supply-chain partners play in the United States. We will continue to do everything in our power to assist Smithfield Foods, Inc., and others throughout the Nation in protecting the health and safety of workers and addressing current and new challenges.

Thank you again for your letter and please reach out to me if NIOSH can provide further information or assistance to Smithfield Foods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Howard", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Howard, M.D.  
Director

**From:** Howard, John (CDC/NIOSH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thu, 7 May 2020 16:08:50 +0000  
**To:** mflemming@smithfield.com  
**Cc:** Honesty, Nicole (CDC/NIOSH/OD);Hearl, Frank J. (CDC/NIOSH/OD);Corbin, Alfreda (CDC/NIOSH/OD) (CTR)  
**Subject:** Corrected Letter  
**Attachments:** LTR.Flemming.7.May.2020.pdf

Corrected letter.

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**From:** Howard, John (CDC/NIOSH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 10:58 AM  
**To:** mflemming@smithfield.com  
**Cc:** Honesty, Nicole (CDC/NIOSH/OD) <nch9@cdc.gov>; Hearl, Frank J. (CDC/NIOSH/OD) <fjh1@cdc.gov>; Corbin, Alfreda (CDC/NIOSH/OD) (CTR) <gtb6@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
National Institute for Occupational  
Safety and Health (NIOSH)  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Suite 9200, Patriots Plaza  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
PHONE: (202) 245-0625  
FAX: (202) 245-0628

May 7, 2020

Mr. Michael Flemming  
Chief Legal Officer  
Smithfield Food, Inc.  
200 Commerce St.  
Smithfield, Virginia 23430  
[mflemming@smithfield.com](mailto:mflemming@smithfield.com)

Dear Mr. Flemming:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2020 concerning the proactive measures Smithfield Foods, Inc. has taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your workplaces. I appreciate the summary of the policies and protocols Smithfield Foods has instituted. Among the many important measures you have described, the new tools to enhance communications between employees and management are innovative and impressive. Perhaps we could arrange a follow-up conversation some time in the future so that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) staff could learn more about those tools, how they have worked, and whether similar tools might be useful in other workplace settings.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Howard", written over a horizontal line.

John Howard, M.D.  
Director

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**Sent:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 20:24:19 +0000  
**To:** Trout, Douglas (CDC/NIOSH/DFSE/HETAB); Walke, Henry (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Agnes Warner (CDC/OD/OCS) (bli8@cdc.gov); Dennehy, Heather (CDC/OD/OCS); Redfield, Robert R. (CDC/OD); chris.delacy@hklaw.com; klombardo@smithfield.com; ksullivan@smithfield.com; Skahill, Michael P.  
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**Subject:** Call with Dr. Redfield, CDC Director and Smithfield Foods