

Appendix C: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests and Other Requests for NORS Data

For FOIA requests, information provided per the request's specifications, including identifiable information, will be considered for redaction by the CDC FOIA office. NORS staff provide guidance about which fields are most likely to require redaction but do not have final say in what is released.

For non-FOIA data requests, remarks or comment fields will not typically be released externally by CDC. The same or similar is true for open-text fields such as City/Town/Place of Exposure and State Lab ID and for attachments. If remarks or comment fields are released, proprietary information (e.g., company names) will typically be redacted; however, establishment/company names are sometimes released to regulatory agencies. To protect the identity of the author and contact person for the outbreak report, the report author and reporting agency will also not be released. For data requests involving data from a single state, the NORS team typically notifies the state and refers the request back to them for their approval to pull, or for them to directly pull the request. To obtain additional data from NORS through a non-FOIA data request – including data for use in scientific publications – individuals can email NORSAdmin@cdc.gov.

A limited subset of NORS data is publicly available via the [NORS Dashboard](#), but NORS Dashboard **does not contain all data reported to NORS** and is only updated on an annual basis. To obtain additional data for scientific study or analysis, or to ask questions on how to use or interpret NORS data, please contact NORSAdmin@cdc.gov or NORSDashboard@cdc.gov.

Further information on CDC policy for identifying commercial entities to the public can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaks/investigating-outbreaks/identify-commercial.html>