

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 provides 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 comments will not typically be released external to CDC or are redacted in order to protect the privacy of individuals and establishments, although sometimes establishment names are released to regulatory agencies. If comments or remarks are released, proprietary information (e.g. company names) will be redacted. The same or similar is true for fields such as City/Town/Place of Exposure, State Lab ID, and for attachments. In order 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.

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