



Office of the Chief  
Records Officer for the  
U.S. Government

***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

December 16, 2020

Mr. Scott W. Rowell  
Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Hubert Humphrey Building, Suite 309-F  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Rowell:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently received allegations concerning the unauthorized disposition of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) email records. In a December 10, 2020, letter from the Chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Director of the CDC (attached), Chairman James Clyburn stated:

I write today to express my serious concern about what may be deliberate efforts by the Trump Administration to conceal and destroy evidence that senior political appointees interfered with career officials' response to the coronavirus crisis at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This week, a career CDC official stated in a transcribed interview with Select Subcommittee staff that she was instructed to delete an email in which a Department of Health and Human Services appointee demanded that CDC alter or rescind truthful scientific reports he believed were damaging to President Trump. She also stated that she understood the instructions to delete the email came from CDC Director Robert Redfield.

Please note that, per 36 CFR 1230.14, if records have been destroyed without NARA's proper authorization, CDC must cease destruction and report the incidents promptly to NARA.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting that CDC investigate this allegation and provide a response, within 30 calendar days, as described in 36 CFR 1230.14. If email or other records were deleted, please indicate if the specific records outlined in the allegation can be recovered or duplicated from other sources. If you have any questions, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

LAURENCE BREWER  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government

Enclosure

cc:

Karen Ballesteros, HHS, Agency Records Officer  
Mary K. Wilson, CDC, Agency Records Officer