



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

Jacki Monson, JD
Chair
National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
CDC/National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782-2002

Dear Ms. Monson:

Thank you for your letter to me with recommendations regarding privacy, confidentiality, and security for data collection and use during a Public Health Emergency (PHE). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will consider the Committee's recommendations as we review matters related to data collection during a PHE.

Under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, I may determine that a disease or disorder presents a PHE, or that a PHE, including significant outbreaks of infectious disease or bioterrorist attacks, otherwise exists. HHS works tirelessly to protect the lives of Americans, including implementing emergency response authorities such as PHE Declarations when necessary and appropriate, informed by data and recommendations of interagency partners, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Thank you again for your work to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to improve the health and well-being of Americans.

Sincerely,

Xavier Becerra