

Mark W. Libby
Chargé d’Affaires, a.i
United States Mission to the European Union,
Zinnerstraat 13,
B-1000 Brussels,
Belgium

24 April 2020

Ref: OUT2020-0029

Dear Mr. Libby,

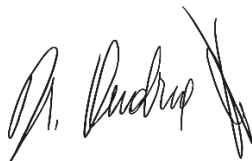
Thank you for your letter dated 9 April 2020 raising a question on the transfer of personal data for the purpose of scientific research and the development of vaccines and treatments to combat COVID-19 on the basis of the “important public interest” derogation in Article 49 (1) (d) of the GDPR.

I am pleased to inform you that the European Data Protection Board adopted guidelines on the processing of data concerning health for the purpose of scientific research in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak on 21 April 2020, which address the question raised in your letter.

Therefore, I kindly invite you to read our Guidelines 03/2020, in particular Section 7 on international data transfers, available via the following link: https://edpb.europa.eu/our-work-tools/our-documents/guidelines/guidelines-032020-processing-data-concerning-health-purpose_en.

As expressed in these guidelines, the GDPR does allow for meaningful collaboration between EEA and non-EEA public health authorities and research institutions in the search for vaccines and treatments against COVID-19, while simultaneously protecting the fundamental right to data protection in the EEA.

Yours sincerely,



Andrea Jelinek