



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

May 22, 2020

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C.
20250

Mark Kennedy
Vice President, Legal Affairs
Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine
5100 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20016
mkennedy@pcrm.org

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition that you submitted on behalf of the Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) dated May 20, 2020. The petition requests that FSIS require meat and poultry processing establishments to test their products for the presence SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and make the results available to the public. The petition also requests that FSIS amend its labeling regulations and take other actions to notify the public of the potential presence of SARS-CoV-2 on meat and poultry products. The petition does not include scientific studies or other supporting information to demonstrate that COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging.

Your request is being considered as rulemaking petition under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 20-02. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and will be posted on the FSIS Website at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/petitions>

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Regulations Development Staff at mary.porretta@usda.gov if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

Matthew Michael
Director
Regulations Development Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development