

December 31, 2020
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Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about virus tracking. The DNA sequencing revolution has been driven by American research yet our complete failure to address COVID has even extended to collecting genetic data. The work of DeCODE Genetics in Iceland, Dr Bedford with the White House outbreak and groups in England and South Africa identifying more contagious variants show how helpful a phylogeny can be for understand a pandemic and responding appropriately. Here testing and data collection have been so scattershot that only one patient in 300 has had the variant they carry analyzed leaving us to fumble around in the dark.

Please assure me that California will organize open COVID sequence databanking.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our scientific leadership.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson