Data Access and Use Policy of ClinEpiDB, a EuPathDB Database
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The Clinical Epidemiology Database, ClinEpiDB (http://ClinEpiDB.org) is operated under funding from the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ClinEpiDB is charged with ensuring that epidemiologic datasets are conveniently and freely accessible to the global biomedical researcher community. This document summarizes policies associated with the access and use of datasets on ClinEpiDB.

General principles:
ClinEpiDB is committed to ensuring the appropriate protection of all submitted study data made available through its platform.

Data from research studies is not made publically available until thorough quality control both internally with ClinEpiDB and with original data providers. Research data is made available to data providers through an internal protected site prior to public release in order to ensure adequate representation and accuracy.

ClinEpiDB.org websites are served over encrypted connections using secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS) to protect against interception and manipulation of sensitive data. Access to development and other pre-release versions of ClinEpiDB websites is restricted by passwords available only to EuPathDB staff and provisionally to selected scientific working group members approved by the original data provider.

Each dataset that is submitted to ClinEpiDB is unique and each may require different levels of data access restrictions. Some studies will have a three tiered data access system implemented, see table below.

Tier	Data Type	Description
One	Variable display filters, restricted data row display and summary data tables	Open access, no login required. Access is limited to search wizard, 15 rows of results pages and analysis tools.
Two	Full on-site data access and display	User will be required to log-in to access. Following login, user will have full access to the search wizard pages, results pages, analysis tools & individual record pages.

Three	Data available for download	Tier 1 and Tier two restrictions plus, users may be required to submit documentation that will require either active or passive approval from the original data providers. Once approval is granted, users will be allowed to download the full dataset.

Users of data provided through ClinEpiDB agree to:
- responsibly use the data
- adhere to the principles presented through the tiered access system described above
- any additional requirement that may be requested by the data provider

The ClinEpiDB platform has received ethics approval from the University of Pennsylvania under IRB#7, Protocol #828806. All studies that are included in ClinEpiDB have undergone ethical approval at applicable institutions prior to protocol execution and ClinEpiDB is generally not involved in this process.

ClinEpiDB respects the principles of confidentiality and acknowledge the dissemination of human subjects research data. ClinEpiDB will not make data available that allows for the identification of study participants and will apply processing algorithms to appropriately obfuscate potentially identifying information. ClinEpiDB will not make data or variables publically available that data providers are not comfortable disseminating.

While ClinEpiDB aims to make data broadly accessible and reduce technical barriers to data exploration, we fully endorse proper attribution to original study principal investigators, study teams, staff and acknowledgement of participation of study participants. ClinEpiDB aims to provide clear access to data provider information and contacts so that data users may contact study teams when appropriate and if they have any questions or concerns specific to the study.