From: GISAID Secretariat ▓▓▓▓▓@gisaid.org
Subject: Re: data packages made available for download
Date: October 7, 2025 at 5:44 PM
To: Trevor Bedford ▓▓▓@bedford.io
Cc: Songer, Michael ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓

Dear Mr. Bedford,

We are in receipt of your email related to discussions on the data packages for download. Unfortunately, given the numerous projects undertaken by our Teams at this time, we are unable to respond with an individual discussion request. We have found that our staff resources are best allocated to address the user requests by email, as they arise within the GISAID platform.
Our Team responded to you promptly, albeit (and unfortunately) to an old email address. We have informed them of your current email, and they will respond shortly with suggestions on how GISAID can support the phylogenetic tree that you publish.

We trust that their guidance will resolve any issues that you have.
Best wishes,

GISAID Secretariat

On 10/6/25, 14:46, "Trevor Bedford" ▓▓▓@bedford.io> wrote:

Dear GISAID Secretariat and dear Peter,

Can we please speak? There's a lot here and it will be a more efficient and more collegial use of our time if we can just speak in over the phone or over Zoom. I'm happy to send an invite.

If this works for you, please let me know some times that are preferable and I'll do my best to make this work with my schedule.

Thank you and take care,
 - Trevor

On Oct 4, 2025, at 12:59 AM, GISAID Secretariat ▓▓▓▓▓▓@gisaid.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Bedford,

Thank you for your responding to our important email notice of 1-Oct-2025 regarding GISAID's decision that it will no longer make the 'nextregion' package available as it is no longer being downloaded by users in a meaningful manner.

In addition, we remind you that our email also indicated that the data provision GISAID has generated for you on a weekly basis to facilitate updates of the 'nextregion' package, will no longer be produced. This

updates of the 'nextregion' package, will no longer be produced. This means the link 'epicov.org/epi3/…' that was provided to you for the past five years as an individual, i.e., a registered user, will cease to work.

Regarding your global subsampled phylogenetic tree, we propose the following mechanism by which GISAID will keep this feature up-to-date. After consulting with our staff and advisors on the feasibility of keeping your global tree up-to-date, there was a clear consensus that continuing to generate, zip and move big files back and forth is not sustainable and a waste of resources. It is recommended that you provide to GISAID the parameters for Augur and GISAID will run it for you. You would then be provided the Augur output JSON file with the relevant subsample for your phylogenetic tree.

With regard to the email from our legal counsel, we would indeed appreciate that you follow up on his questions with him directly. Accordingly, we have copied Mr. Songer on this response.

Finally, please note: We have removed your insertion into this email thread, as it not only detracts from our communication, but has no relevance to the foregoing.

Best wishes

GISAID Secretariat

From: Trevor Bedford ✕✕✕@bedford.io>
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 07:22
To: GISAID Secretariat ███████@gisaid.org>
Subject: Re: data packages made available for download

Dear GISAID Secretariat and dear Peter,

Thanks so much for getting in touch. I had completely forgotten about the outstanding email from Michael Songer from January 2023. There was a lot that I dropped in that interim. My apologies for this.

Thank you hugely for providing the backbone for ongoing genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and for keeping provisioning the flat file at www.epicov.org/epi3/3p/nextflu/export/corona2020_fulldump.json.bz2 for our continued updating of nextstrain.org/ncov/gisaid/. It's hard to believe that it's almost been six years since we started this work together in January 2020 (and still longer for work on flu).

I'd love to keep this partnership going and keep nextstrain.org/ncov/gisaid/ updating. I'd love to know if there's specific things you'd like us to be doing differently. I had noted in an email to TechDev on July 2, 2024 (copied below) about a strategy to

lighten the load for provisioning data (and our processing of data), but there's many ways to do things.

But all this said, perhaps it would be best if we could have a phone call? It would be great to talk.

Separately, I can still plan to follow up on Michael Songer's queries. Should I respond directly to him or to you?

Take care,
 - Trevor

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On Oct 1, 2025, at 2:35 AM, GISAID Secretariat <XXXXX@gisaid.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Bedford,

During a recent review of data packages made available for download in EpiCoV we noticed that your package 'nextregion' in the 'Genomic epidemiology' section is for the most part no longer being downloaded by users. To be precise, during the past seven months (Mar-Sep 2025) only 79 users have made a total of 88 downloads of your package 'nextregion.'

Because GISAID's resources are limited, we have made the determination to no longer make the 'nextregion' package available for download in EpiCoV.

Consequently, the data provision GISAID has generated for you on a weekly basis for the past five years to facilitate updates of the 'nextregion' package in the 'Genomic epidemiology' section, will no longer be produced.

Of course, GISAID will gladly work with you to keep up-to-date your global subsampled phylogenetic tree of the 'Genomic epidemiology of novel coronavirus (nCoV)' GISAID agreed to support in January 2020 (see your email update 26-Jan-2020).

Additionally, we draw your attention to an outstanding matter. We came across an email you sent on 2. January 2023 to our legal counsel, Mr. Michael Songer (see attached). You indicated at the time that you would follow

up on his questions, once you are able following a medical leave. Our counsel, you will recall, had previously provided you with 'detailed clarification on data use under the general DAA vs. web application data agreements' you sought. We would appreciate if you provide us with your answers to our counsel's questions, and we apologize in advance, if we have misplaced your reply.

Best wishes

GISAID Secretariat