

ANNOTATED AGENDA

COVID-19 Stakeholders Teleconference: CPHO Health Professional Forum – Biweekly Update

Wednesday, October 14th, 2020

10:00 am – 11:00 am EST (1 hour)

Dial-in Information: 1-877-413-4781 or 613-960-7510 **Conference ID:** 5192446

Purpose of today's call:

- To provide key updates including new guidance (Kerry Robinson)
- To hear from the PPE Supply and Demand Modelling Group (Jo Voisin)
- To hear from the Epi Modelling Group (Nick Ogden)
- HCW Mental Health and Wellness – Roundtable-style with Forum Members

Guidance:

- New: Testing (Interim guidance on use of rapid antigen detection tests; Pan-Canadian COVID-19 testing and Screening guidance; National PCR testing indication guidance)

Forward agenda:

- NACI Recommendations (post-publication)
- Aerosol Transmission (waiting for SAC)
- Vaccine Confidence

INTRODUCTION – Forum Secretariat (Ray Clark)

Welcome and Roll Call

PHAC SITUATIONAL BRIEFING/UPDATE – Kerry Robinson (5-10 minutes)

1. Domestic Update (October 13) For Reference

- 182,839 cases (*responsive only: 9,627 deaths*).
- 84.4% of people have now recovered.
- Labs across Canada have tested 8,191,592 people for COVID-19 to date. On average, over 71,000 people were tested daily over last week with 2.5% testing positive.

From OCT 11 and 12 CPHO Statement:

- The steep rise in cases over the last week is troubling. It also coincided with Thanksgiving planning for many Canadians, which was very different this year.
- At the SAC and with FPT DMs, we have been focused on developing a national approach for COVID-19 vaccination.
- It is clear that COVID-19 immunization will be the most complex vaccine initiative in Canada's history and will require unprecedented levels of FPT collaboration.
- Canada's approach to COVID Immunization is organized along key components including:
 - Communicating and engaging with Canadians
 - Securing and reviewing vaccines
 - Prioritizing vaccine recipients (will hear from NACI on this shortly)
 - Logistics and distribution
 - Immunization and surveillance on safety, coverage and effectiveness
- We are working closely with PTs on all aspects of this approach, however there are challenges to plan without key details on vaccines that will be approved, key characteristics and logistic requirements.
- NACI will be publishing in the next couple of weeks their statement on preliminary guidance on key populations for early vaccination based on the information and evidence available at this time. It is expected that once approved vaccines are known including their effectiveness for specific populations that their guidance will be updated. We will have a further update on their interim guidance at our next meeting.
- In the days and weeks ahead we will engage the Forum in discussions on items such as priority populations for early vaccination (based on NACI guidance), public confidence vaccine effectiveness and safety, monitoring and surveillance of adverse events.
- In addition, we have been focused recently on updating national testing and screening guidance with recent publication of these products reflecting approval of new testing technologies and evolving evidence on testing:

- Interim guidance on the use of rapid antigen detection tests for the identification of SARS-CoV-2 infection
 - Pan-Canadian COVID-19 testing and screening guidance
 - National polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing indication guidance for COVID-19
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Guest Speakers

- This meeting we have two guest speakers:
 - **PPE Supply and Demand Modelling:** Jo Voisin (HC)- note that Karen Walton from PHAC's PPE team is also on the line to answer any questions about PPE procurement, etc.
 - **Epi Modelling:** Nicolas Ogden (PHAC-NML)

PPE Supply and Demand Modelling (20 minutes)

- **FOR YOUR AWARENESS:** 10-minute presentation from Jo followed by 10 minutes of questions
 - CMA released its newest PPE survey of members on September 29.
 - "...while there have been improvements in the supply and distribution of PPE, 54% of physicians continue to encounter challenges when trying to acquire it."
 - The demand for PPE is having a financial impact on most (86%) physician practices.
- **Purpose:** This is an informational presentation so that Forum members can learn more about the work at the federal-level related to PPE.
- **Outcomes for Forum Members:** Increased understanding and dedicated time to answer questions
- **SEEKING INPUT ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO PPE PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY – KAREN WALTON**

Epidemiology Modelling (15 minutes)

- **FOR YOUR AWARENESS:** 10-minute presentation from Dr. Ogden followed by questions
- **Purpose:** This is an informational presentation on the most recent modelling numbers (October 9)
- **Outcomes for Forum Members:** Increased understanding and dedicated time to answer questions

HCW Mental Health and Wellness – Roundtable-style with Forum Members

Resources highlighted by Forum members:

- **CMA**
 - CMA has various resources such as a Wellness Support Line (counselling and mental health supports), CMA Wellness Connection (virtual support group sessions), and their Physician Wellness Hub (a collection of nearly 300 original and curated resources spanning 20 topics)

- **CNA**
 - CNA's COVID-19 Webpage includes information on mental health and resources such as webinars and one-pagers.
 - CNA partnering with UofT for a rapid evidence review on mental health of nurses
 - CNA in discussion with Mental Health Research Canada for pooling on healthcare providers and the public on mental health

Pulse Survey

- Last week we sent you a pulse survey on your organization's experience with our biweekly COVID-19 meetings and how we can improve them going forward.
- We also requested your input related to essential workers (in health care or other sectors such as truck drivers) and occasionally their family members being unable to access services (e.g., appointments for dental, medical, and/or other health concerns) as they are unable to "pass" screening questions as a function of their work circumstances.
- We would appreciate receiving your completed surveys and response to the essential workers question by October 21.

Questions/Issues from Members

- ***(From Previous Meeting; did not yet address) SOGC*** – Any updates on **airborne transmission**?
 - Status: This is an area of active discussion at SAC, therefore we can speak to this item at a future meeting.

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS – Forum Secretariat (Ray Clark)

Questions for Members

- Please continue to send any feedback, questions or comments to the secretariat. If there are further items that the Forum should consider for Forward Planning, please send them to the Secretariat.

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- Forward agenda:
 - NACI Recommendations (post-publication)
 - Vaccine Confidence