

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Update re: COVID-19 with MNC, MMF and MNBC

September 3, 2020

11:30am-1:00pm EST (1.5 hours)

Dial-in Information: 1-877-413-4781 or local 613-960-7510 Conference ID: 9513647

NOTE:

- Purpose of today's call:
 - The Métis National Council (MNC), Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and the Métis Nation-British Columbia (MNBC) will meet with Government of Canada officials via teleconference. The last meeting with this group was on July 21, 2020.
 - Federal partners, including PHAC, will share an update on federal actions related to COVID-19 and MNC, MMF and MNBC will share an overview of plans and pressures for their respective nations.

Health Portfolio Participation:

- Kerry Robinson, PHAC
- Guest speakers, CIRID, PHAC
- Tasha Stefanis, HC

Follow-up actions from July 21st meeting

PHAC had a few follow-up actions from the July 21st meeting:

- A member asked how Canadian students scheduled to attend school in the United States will be supported should they become ill and need to return to Canada. PHAC responded by email following the meeting. PHAC indicated that there is currently a travel advisory in place to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice, and shared web links related to travel advice to Canadians. PHAC also recommended that students remain in close contact with the schools they will be attending to ensure they are able to follow the measures being put in place.
- A member asked about awareness campaigns on masks. PHAC shared messaging and awareness resources on masks with members by email following the meeting.
- During its update on the influenza vaccine campaign, PHAC offered to invite a representative from its Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases to provide a presentation on guidance on the delivery of influenza vaccine in the presence of COVID-19. This has been scheduled for today's meeting.

PHAC SITUATIONAL BRIEFING/UPDATE – KERRY ROBINSON

(taken from LMOH annotated agenda)

1. Domestic Update (August 23) For Reference Only

- 124,629 cases, including 9,071 deaths.
- Eighty-nine percent of people have now recovered.
- Labs across Canada have tested 5,076,734 people for COVID-19 to date.
- Average of over 48,700 people were tested daily, with 0.8% testing positive.
- Over the last several weeks, national daily case counts have ranged from 350 to 500 cases, with an average 380 cases being reported daily during the most recent 7 days.

Overall updates

- As we continue to reopen our economic and social spaces, we can expect increases in cases and clusters as we've seen in recent weeks in jurisdictions across the country but we are continually improving our capacity to manage COVID-19 based on our own experience and the experience of other countries.
 - Nationally, while our overall numbers of cases are under manageable control, we have seen further recent increases in cases in several jurisdictions (BC, AB, ON and QC) and local areas (Brandon, LTC in MB, Hutterite communities in SK and MB), close to spring levels of cases.
 - Hope to nationally keep transmission managed as schools re-open and build up public health capacity to respond as things continue to open. Want to keep the epidemic in a slow burn scenario. As schools across Canada reopen soon, we will have to adjust, adapt and ensure capacity to contain cases, trace, isolate and keep transmission controlled.
 - Area that we are continuing to promote is importance of taking care of our broader health and wellbeing. This includes keeping up with routine medical appointments for essential preventative health services like vaccinations, cancer screening tests, and dental care, as well as the ongoing management of chronic diseases.
2. **New Guidance** (posted on Canada.ca): Published since our last briefing...
- Guidance for Schools: K-12 and Post-Secondary Education. PHAC continues to work with PTs and PSE institutions to ensure collective readiness for the careful and safe return of International students to Canada, including plans to support appropriate self-isolation plans.

Recently Published (August 26): FPT Public Health Response Plan for the Ongoing Management of COVID-19

Purpose

- The purpose of the Public Health Response Plan is to provide FPT public health officials, Indigenous partners, health system partners and other stakeholders with a common forward planning approach for ongoing management of COVID-19 in Canada.
- It promotes a long-term approach that covers immediate planning imperatives for the fall/winter 2020 period and thereafter until population herd immunity in one form or another is sufficient to bring the pandemic activity in Canada to an end.
- The plan acknowledges jurisdictional roles and responsibilities, identifies national approaches where appropriate, and highlights areas for PT flexibility and customization.

Plan Highlights

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- To facilitate a common approach to preparedness across Canada, the plan includes key planning assumptions, a “reasonable worst case scenario”, and a list of capabilities and requirements needed to mitigate the reasonable worst case scenario.
 - One such key assumption is that the level of response across Canada will vary based on local epidemiology (variable COVID activity, timing and geographic distribution), and where public health measures are likely to be implemented locally in a more targeted and focused way wherever possible.
 - For planning purposes, the reasonable worst case scenario provides a “stress-test” not a prediction and is intended to stimulate thinking on our current response efforts, capacity thresholds and resiliency.
 - The main response components of the plan are drawn from the FPT Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events:
 - Surveillance; Testing & Lab Activities; Public Health Measures; Infection Prevention and Control and Clinical Care Guidance; Vaccination, International Border and Travel Health Measures; Health Care System Infrastructure; Risk Communications and Outreach, and Research.
 - There is also **specific content to support planning with Indigenous communities**, high-risk settings and populations, and the role of modelling in the response.

***PHAC is happy to share the links to the FPT Public Health Response Plan if helpful**

3. CIRID PRESENTATION – CIRID guest presenters

- This meeting, we have guest speakers from CIRID (Erin Henry [Director], Althea House (TBC) and Kelsey Young [Epidemiologist]) to speak about influenza season planning for the coming fall.
- Erin or Althea will provide introductory remarks and Kelsey will be presenting the information.
- See separate presentation

4. COVID-19 Vaccine Development – Kerry Robinson

- There are a number of key developments and significant federal work on COVID-19 vaccine development and investments, including update on the Vaccine Task Force, regulatory work on vaccine approvals, and planning for deployment and roll-out of potential COVID-19 vaccines.
- If this of interest to Metis partners, PHAC and HC could bring forward this as an item for a more substantive update and discussion at our next briefing in September.

Other updates from MNC, MMF and MMF

(taken from media scans)

- July 27, 2020: MMF launched two new programs to provide financial support for Métis post-secondary students and recent graduates. This includes approximately \$10 million to support Métis students pursuing post-secondary education, and an additional \$1.8 million dollars to support students who have been financially impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the MMF COVID-19 Emergency Student Assistance Program. Both programs were created in partnership with the federal government.