

Hello everyone. Good afternoon.

There have been **149,094** cases of COVID-19 in Canada, including **9,249** deaths. Among the infected individuals, **86 percent** have now recovered. Every day, on average, laboratories across the country have analyzed screening tests for almost **70,000** people, and there has been a positive result in **1.4** percent of those. On average, **1,175** cases a day have been identified in Canada over the past seven days.

We continue to see an increase in the daily number of cases at the national level, with the most rapid increases in Quebec and Ontario. The number of COVID-19 cases in hospitals is also going up in those two provinces, as well as in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. These signs are worrisome. We know that the virus can spread quickly. The case increases can quickly swamp public health resources and the healthcare system in localized areas.

As we said earlier this week, Canada is at a turning point in the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the latest epidemiological analyses and modelling studies, unless we work together now to slow the spread of the virus, we will face a significant resurgence in the regions where COVID-19 activity is on the rise.

We have an opportunity to prevent an epidemic surge if we act now, together. Local public health authorities cannot do it alone. We must all take steps to protect ourselves and to protect our loved ones and our communities.

That is why we must all commit once again to following proven personal protection measures, which include physical distancing,

frequent handwashing, and wearing a non-medical mask in enclosed spaces, crowded places, and close contact situations where it is difficult to maintain distancing. Finally, and especially, if you have symptoms, even mild ones, stay home and self-isolate.

Also, we urge everyone to limit close contact as much as possible. We all have different responsibilities when it comes to close contact with others. But do not forget that each person you meet also has a contact history. So, each time you reduce the number of close contacts, or the duration of those meetings, you will reduce your risk.

Let us all do our part to help each other.

Thank you.