

## Enhanced Surveillance for Travellers: Proposed Alberta Pilot Approach

We will conduct COVID-19 PCR testing in travellers to Canada, including returning Canadians and foreign nationals currently permitted entry to Canada (“Population 1”) and essential workers (“Population 2”). Each population will have its own testing strategy.

The purpose of testing population 1 is to determine the risk of COVID-19 transmission with combinations of serial testing and a shortened quarantine period. The purpose of testing population 2 is to determine the uptake of testing and positivity rates.

The protocol below could be implemented in other provinces pending interest and capacity.

### “Population 1”

Returning Canadians and foreign nationals currently permitted entry to Canada, provided they are:

- Arriving to Canada on a direct flight to Calgary or entering at the Coutts, AB land crossing during pilot timeframe
- Staying in AB for 14 days immediately following their arrival
- No symptoms or known COVID exposure within 14 days prior to arrival
- Able and willing to download COVID Alert and CanArrive app on their mobile device

### Population 1 intervention

The intervention will be staged. Intervention A will be implemented for the first 8-12 weeks of the pilot and, assuming that certain criteria are achieved, intervention B will be implemented during weeks 12-26 of the pilot. Speed of recruitment will determine the overall length of the pilot and the actual transition point.

### Intervention A

We will test all participants on arrival in Canada, from where they will go straight to quarantine. On day 6/7 post-arrival (per participant convenience), a second test will be administered. If both tests are negative and participant is symptom free, they will be released from quarantine (approx. day 6-8) with additional precautions in place until day 14. All participants (regardless of quarantine status) will be expected to screen themselves for symptoms daily and adhere to risk mitigation measures (e.g. providing an advance itinerary, utilizing COVID Alert app, use of masks in public spaces, frequent hand-washing, physical distancing, and avoidance of vulnerable locations [hospitals, long-term care homes, etc.]). Should symptoms appear at any point, immediate isolation is expected, per instructions.

### Primary outcomes

- Importation rate – will provide information on risk level of travellers by country/region
- Incidence of secondary transmission (transmission from traveller to individual not in travelling party) between day 0 and 7 of arrival – serves as a proxy measure for breach in quarantine and can act as an indicator for moving to Intervention B;
- Incidence of secondary transmission (to individual not in travelling party) due to exposure post-release from quarantine ( $\geq$  day 6-8 post-arrival) – provides metric of risk associated with intervention A

### Decision whether to transition to intervention B

The decision to transition to intervention B will be a joint decision between the Federal government and the province/territory where the pilot is located. It will be based on a critical assessment of observed risk against baseline and modelled/expected risk.

If the decision is taken to shift to intervention B, a secondary program launch point will be set that will include revised communications materials, participant instructions and compliance/enforcement.

### Intervention B

Pilot participants will be tested on arrival in Canada and remain in quarantine until a negative test result is received (usually within 48 hrs), at which point they will be released from quarantine if they are symptom free. Following release from quarantine, participants will be expected to re-test at day 6-8 post-arrival (per participant convenience). All participants (regardless of quarantine status) will be expected to screen themselves for symptoms daily and adhere to risk mitigation measures (e.g. providing an advance itinerary, utilizing COVID Alert app, use of masks in public spaces, frequent hand-washing, physical distancing, and avoidance of vulnerable locations [hospitals, long-term care homes, etc.]). Should symptoms appear at any point, immediate self-isolation is expected, per instructions.

### “Population 2”

Essential workers entering Canada, provided that they meet the following inclusion criteria:

- Arriving to Canada on a direct flight to YYC, or entering at the Coutts, AB land crossing;
- No symptoms or known COVID exposure within 14 days prior to arrival;
- Able and willing to download COVID Alert and CanArrive app on their mobile device.

### Population 2 intervention

Essential workers without symptoms are exempt from quarantine upon entering Canada. However, they are still required to monitor for symptoms, wear a non-medical mask when physical distancing in public settings cannot be maintained and follow local public health guidance. Essential workers planning to stay in Canada > 14 days will be offered testing at entry and at day 6-8. Those who cross the border frequently (e.g. daily) will be offered testing every 3-4 weeks. They should continue to maintain the above precautions and self-isolate in the event of symptoms.

### Primary outcomes

- Uptake and adherence to testing regime
- Positivity rate

### Other considerations

The operational considerations in implementing and administering this pilot are not described here. The more detailed exploration of the scientific, operational and policy considerations of this pilot are captured in the pilot protocol.