

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Abigail Bimman <Abigail.Bimman@globalnews.ca>
Sent: October 1, 2020 3:57 PM
To: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC); Davidson, Cole (HC/SC); Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC)
Cc: Marc-André Cossette; Crystal Oag
Subject: RE: Rapid test questions

Thanks James. Confirming that last answer is on the record, attributed to you?

From: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Abigail Bimman <Abigail.Bimman@globalnews.ca>; Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca>; Davidson, Cole (HC/SC) <cole.davidson@canada.ca>; Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC) <thierry.belair@canada.ca>
Cc: Marc-André Cossette <marc.cossette@globalnews.ca>; Crystal Oag <crystal.oag@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: Rapid test questions

Hi Abigail,

This is what PSPC can add for Q3:

Since the spring, the Government of Canada has had an agreement in place for the Cepheid GeneExpert tests. As with virtually all contracts for PPE and other medical supplies, including test kits, the quantities negotiated are based on Canada's needs as well as what the supplier is able to guarantee delivery of. Given the high demand for tests globally, that's precisely why we've pursued multiple agreements with different suppliers for tests.

Thanks,
James

From: Abigail Bimman [<mailto:Abigail.Bimman@globalnews.ca>]
Sent: October 1, 2020 1:04 PM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca>; Davidson, Cole (HC/SC) <cole.davidson@canada.ca>; Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC) <thierry.belair@canada.ca>; fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>
Cc: Marc-André Cossette <marc.cossette@globalnews.ca>; Crystal Oag <crystal.oag@globalnews.ca>
Subject: RE: Rapid test questions

Hello,

Thanks so much Cecely!

I wanted to consolidate what I'm still looking for from Health. My deadline is 3PM.

1. On rollout and delivery, I understand Cole said they will be distributed to provinces and territories as they are received, but can you shed any light on the hierarchy about how that rollout goes and which provinces/territories get the first shipments? Would more remote locations receive them first, or locations with higher case numbers?

2. On approval and use of rapid testing, can someone please explain what is going on with Hyris kit? According to HC's website the Bkit is approved, but the Bcube is not on any list of approval or development, and I understand the Bkit can't be used without the cube? Can you confirm if the full testing device has been approved and whether it's in use anywhere in Canada?
3. On Cepheid: I'm specifically trying to understand why the government bought millions more of the Abbott test than the Cepheid, when this study shows the Cepheid to be more accurate and have a higher capacity?

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.11.089896v1.full>

4. NEW: The FDA requirements for Abott ID NOW is that it's used in a lab setting, NOT point of care – can you comment on why it's good to go for point of care in Canada?

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-september-18-2020>

Thanks,
Abigail

From: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca>

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:31 PM

To: Abigail Bimman <Abigail.Bimman@globalnews.ca>; Davidson, Cole (HC/SC) <cole.davidson@canada.ca>; Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC) <thierry.belair@canada.ca>; fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>

Cc: Marc-André Cossette <marc.cossette@globalnews.ca>; Crystal Oag <crystal.oag@globalnews.ca>

Subject: RE: Rapid test questions

This email is from an EXTERNAL SENDER | Ce courriel provient d'un EXPÉDITEUR EXTERNE

Hi Abigail,

Responding to the procurement related questions:

1. On rollout and delivery, I understand the PM has said they are expected in the “coming weeks” - is there any update to the specifics of how many weeks or months that could be?

As regulatory authorization of the Abbott ID NOW test was finalized by Health Canada yesterday, work is underway with the supplier to finalize the details of the delivery schedule. Deliveries to the federal government are set to begin in the coming weeks.

2. On rollout and delivery, I understand Cole has said they will be distributed to provinces and territories as they are received, but can you shed any light on the hierarchy about how that rollout goes and which provinces/territories get the first shipments? Would more remote locations receive them first, or locations with higher case numbers?
3. On approval and use of rapid testing, can someone please explain what is going on with Hyris kit? According to HC's website the Bkit is approved, but the Bcube is not on any list of approval or development, and I understand the Bkit can't be used without the cube? Can you confirm if the full testing device has been approved, whether Canada has bought any or plans to, and whether it's in use anywhere?

4. On approval and use of rapid testing, similar questions about the Xpert Xpress (Cepheid) test – can you tell me the latest on whether it's in use anywhere in Canada, and whether the government has purchased any tests, or is in the process of doing so?

As we have from the outset of this pandemic, we continue to work with the National Microbiology Lab (NML) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to ensure that provinces and territories have the testing supplies that they need.

In addition to the ID NOW rapid point-of-care tests from Abbott, the federal government previously reached agreements for other rapid tests, including the Cepheid GeneExpert test. The agreement with Abbott for the ID NOW tests represents the largest and most comprehensive procurement of rapid tests to date.

Our government is engaged with a range of suppliers for access to additional rapid tests, and remains ready to secure access to additional testing technologies informed by recommendations from the NML and PHAC.

-
Attaching here an example here of where the Cepheid GeneXpert tests have been previously distributed:
<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/print,index.html?archive=&item=48438>

Thank you,
Cecely

Cecely Roy

Press Secretary | Attachée de presse

Office of the Minister of Public Services and Procurement | Cabinet de la ministre des Services publics et de l'Approvisionnement

343-549-7293

From: Abigail Bimman [<mailto:Abigail.Bimman@globalnews.ca>]

Sent: October 1, 2020 12:19 PM

To: Davidson, Cole (HC/SC) <cole.davidson@canada.ca>; Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) <cecely.roy@canada.ca>; Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC) <thierry.belair@canada.ca>; fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC) <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>

Cc: Marc-André Cossette <marc.cossette@globalnews.ca>; Crystal Oag <crystal.oag@globalnews.ca>

Subject: RE: Rapid test questions

Hello, following up to make sure someone saw this and that I indeed included the right people on the request ... deadline is 3PM and I know I sent quite a few questions, so just want to make sure! Thanks so much.

From: Abigail Bimman

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 11:15 AM

To: Davidson, Cole (HC/SC) <cole.davidson@canada.ca>; 'Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)' <cecely.roy@canada.ca>; Bélair, Thierry (HC/SC) <thierry.belair@canada.ca>; 'james.fitz-morris@canada.ca' <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>

Cc: Marc-André Cossette <marc.cossette@globalnews.ca>; Crystal Oag <crystal.oag@globalnews.ca>

Subject: Rapid test questions

Good morning!

I have a couple of follow up questions about rapid tests. I think there is overlap between Health and Procurement so I'm reaching out to both, but please let me know ASAP if I should be reaching out elsewhere.

My deadline is 3PM.

1. On rollout and delivery, I understand the PM has said they are expected in the “coming weeks” - is there any update to the specifics of how many weeks or months that could be?
2. On rollout and delivery, I understand Cole has said they will be distributed to provinces and territories as they are received, but can you shed any light on the hierarchy about how that rollout goes and which provinces/territories get the first shipments? Would more remote locations receive them first, or locations with higher case numbers?
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Thanks,
Abigail

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