

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: October 26, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Laycock, Tristan (SPAC/PSPC); Nathoo, Farees
Cc: Vosguian, Vasken; Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: RE: Lines on this story

Categories: Red Category

Distribution of supplies is a Health lead, so they will have better lines on this story.

Here are our general lines on Rapid tests:

- a) We have consistently guided our procurements based on the best available science and expert advice - including from the National Microbiology Lab and the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- b) That being said, we are not stopping here.
- c) We are actively engaged and in negotiations with a range of suppliers to secure access to additional rapid tests, and we are absolutely looking at Canadian solutions.

FR:

- a) Nous avons constamment guidé nos achats en nous basant sur les meilleures données scientifiques et les meilleurs conseils d'experts disponibles - y compris ceux du Laboratoire national de microbiologie et de l'Agence de santé publique.
- b) Cela étant dit, nous ne nous arrêtons pas là.
- c) Nous sommes en négociation avec une série de fournisseurs pour avoir accès à des tests rapides supplémentaires, et nous cherchons absolument des solutions canadiennes.

If pressed (Abbott ID NOW)

- a) Protecting the health of Canadians is the best thing we can do for the economy.
- b) We are securing access to rapid tests now so they will be ready now that they have received regulatory approval.
- c) We have secured access to up to approximately 8 million ID NOW rapid tests, which are already being delivered, up to approximately 20.5 million Panbio antigen rapid tests, and 3,800 analyzers to process the tests where they are taken.
- d) As case numbers are rising, we are working around the dock to accelerate testing capacity and we continue to support access to PPE for essential workers.

FR

- a) *Le gouvernement protège la santé des Canadiens pour assurer une reprise économique sécuritaire et durable.*
- b) *Nous garantissons l'accès aux tests rapides maintenant qu'ils ont reçu l'autorisation de Santé Canada*
- c) *Nous avons faire l'acquisition d'au plus 7,9 millions de tests rapides qui sont en cours de livraison, vingt et demi et 3,800 analyseurs qui permettent d'effectuer les tests et d'obtenir des résultats rapides.*
- d) *Alors que le nombre de cas augmente, nous travaillons 24 heures sur 24 pour accélérer la capacité de test*

From: Laycock, Tristan (SPAC/PSPC)
Sent: October 26, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Nathoo, Farees <Farees.Nathoo@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>
Cc: Vosquian, Vasken <Vasken.Vosquian@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>; Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC) <elliott.lockington@canada.ca>; Kusnick, Chelsea (SPAC/PSPC) <chelsea.kusnick@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Lines on this story

Adding Chelsea. I'm with policy now!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 26, 2020, at 10:41, Nathoo, Farees <Farees.Nathoo@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca> wrote:

Adding Tristan.

From: Vosquian, Vasken <Vasken.Vosquian@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC) <elliott.lockington@canada.ca>
Cc: Nathoo, Farees <Farees.Nathoo@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>
Subject: Lines on this story

Hey man, do you have anything on this?

Special treatment for Ontario?

Mylène Crête, Le Devoir
October 24, 2020

Quebec should soon be receiving 60,000 COVID-19 rapid screening tests from Ottawa. That is what the Minister of Education, Jean-François Roberge, said on Friday when he was being hounded on this issue by Liberal MP Marwah Rizqy.

"I can tell you that we are working very hard," Roberge said. We are negotiating with the federal government and the much-talked-about Abbott tests are being sent to Quebec for the benefit of Quebecers. We are talking about over 81,000 instruments, over 60,000 tests." He did not specify when the Quebec government would receive them.

Liberal MP Marwah Rizqy was outraged that Ontario had received all of the first tests delivered to the federal government the day before, ahead of Quebec. "On Wednesday, 100,000 tests for all the provinces were delivered to Ottawa. On Thursday, which province got their hands on the tests? Ontario. [...] Why did Ontario receive them first, and not us in Quebec? Good God, it does not make any sense! Our schools are five times worse than Ontario."

As of October 22, 881 classes were closed in Quebec schools due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Quebec is the province with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country, with 98,226 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Ontario has detected 68,353 to date.

When questioned at a press conference on this subject, Deputy Premier Geneviève Guilbault was unable to explain why Quebec is coming second.

“We will be getting 60,000 rapid tests—62,900 to be precise—as announced by my Education colleague this morning,” she repeated. “We will be getting them. A committee will determine how and where these tests will be distributed.”

Behind the scenes, we should remember that Ontario had 90,000 tests waiting for results at the beginning of the month.

According to the federal government, the formula for sharing these tests was decided with the provinces. “It was [because of] the situation in Ontario, with what is happening on the ground [that] the decision was made to send the first shipment of rapid tests,” explained Canada’s Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Howard Njoo, without going into any more detail about these more urgent needs in Ontario.

“But with the other deliveries, there will definitely be enough rapid tests for all provinces and territories,” he added.

The ID NOW rapid test, produced by pharmaceutical company Abbott, allows diagnostic testing in less than 15 minutes. The federal government ordered 7.9 million at the end of September. Public Services and Procurement Minister Anita Anand has indicated that Ottawa expects to receive 2.4 million of these tests by the end of the year.

The majority of these tests—80%—will be distributed on a pro rata basis to the provinces, while the remaining 20% will be retained by the federal government in case of emergency. “This is just the very beginning of the deliveries,” said Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam. [...] “We are just seeing the first deliveries in real time. But there will be more tests in the coming days and weeks.”

Health Canada has indicated that it will receive a total of nearly 400,000 rapid tests from Abbott by Monday, including 485 instruments for analyzing them. Quebec should therefore receive its share “within days” of delivery.

With Marie Vastel

MILLIONS FOR PRODUCING VACCINES

Ottawa continues its strategy to expand Canadian vaccine manufacturing capacity. The government announced Friday that it would provide \$173 million to Medicago of Quebec to allow the company not only to conduct clinical trials on its candidate viral-like particle vaccine, but also to set up a large vaccine and antibody production facility. Ottawa is seeking to increase Canada’s “bio-manufacturing capacity.” The facility, it is explained, will be able to produce not only Medicago’s potential vaccine if it is ever approved, but also the vaccine of any other company that may reach the finish line sooner. Similarly, Ottawa has pledged \$18.2 million to Vancouver’s Precision NanoSystems and a further \$23.2 million to advance the development of six Canadian vaccine candidates. These funds are from the \$600 million Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) established last spring.

Hélène Buzzetti