

Safe Restart Agreement: Testing, Contact Tracing and Data Management

Pillar III: Data Management

Exploring Immediate Investment Opportunities

Province/Territory: _____

Notable system and information gaps in the health and public health data system have impacted Canada's ability to monitor and effectively respond to the COVID-19 epidemic. Many of these gaps reflect systemic, long-standing challenges affecting Canada's health and public health data system beyond the current epidemic, including: issues with **timeliness** of data for health system, public health and policy decision-making; **completeness** of data provided; **granularity** of the data to monitor and understand the impact on sub populations; **access** to data for rapid conversion of data to intelligence; **standards** in data reporting; and lack of identifiers to facilitate data **linkage**.

This exploration aims to do two things:

1. Identify areas where potential investment in Provincial and Territorial (PT) infrastructure (human resources and other) could yield improvements in the collection, sharing and use of COVID-19 data for the health of Canadians in the immediate to short term.
2. Understand the functionality that will be of greatest use to PTs in a national COVID-19 data portal.

QUESTION 1. In what area(s) could investment make a meaningful improvement in the short term to the collection, sharing and use of public health data in your jurisdiction? Questions to consider as you reflect on this are outlined below.

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR ANSWER HERE

Questions to consider:

1. What immediate investments are required to improve the timeliness of collection, sharing and use of public health data in your jurisdiction?
2. What immediate investments are required to improve the granularity and completeness of data for case management (including collection of key variables such as race/ethnicity, Indigenous information and occupation that can improve Canada's understanding and ability to address COVID-19 among key populations)?
3. What immediate investments are required to improve the timeliness and completeness of conducting of testing data?
4. What human resource investments are needed to ensure sufficient capacity to support normal operations and surge capacity to collect, use and share data at both the local public health unit level and the provincial level. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human resources to support testing capacity and reporting of results.• Human resource capacity to support collection and entry of contact tracing information in a timely manner and of good quality.• Human resources to manage data, data linkages and reporting.
5. What IT investments are needed to better support data collection, collation, storage, analysis, and sharing? Please consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are solutions needed at the local level? Regional? Or PT level? (or all of the above)• What functionalities do you require that the current systems don't currently allow for?• Would your solution reside on premises or in a Cloud environment?• Do solutions build upon and enhance what already exists, or do your solutions represent acquisition of entirely new systems?
6. What technology investments in testing, contact tracing and reporting tools are needed to ensure sufficient capacity to process data at the local public health unit level and the provincial level?

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QUESTION 2. A national data portal for COVID-19 can serve a number of functions to support federal, provincial and territorial action, including improving ease of data entry and management (for interested jurisdictions), support controlled access for public health to a clean dataset with data dictionary and other supports, data analysis support with pre-developed analysis script, etc.

As we aim to produce a portal, what are the most important functionalities to support your jurisdiction? Do you have early suggestions on appropriate governance to oversee a national portal?