Krizus, Astrid

From: Ahmad, Cameron
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 11:56 AM
To: MacKillop, Ken
Cc: Hage-Moussa, Vanessa; Mondou, Isabelle; Soni, Shannon-Marie; Butara, Frank; Tessier, Jean; Jones, Murray; Theis, Rick; Krizus, Astrid
Subject: Re: Info for PM Presser - COVID

Thanks Ken.

—

Cameron Ahmad
Directeur, communications | Director, Communications
Cabinet du premier ministre | Prime Minister's Office

On Oct 8, 2020, at 11:52 AM, MacKillop, Ken <Ken.MacKillop@pco-bcp.gc.ca> wrote:

> Hi Cameron,
>
> You had asked for some updated facts and figures related to procurement, testing surge capacity and vaccines in preparation for the PM Friday presser:
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> Please find below some of the latest background info with items of specific interest highlighted. If you need anything else, please let us know.
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> ***Procurement Update:***
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> **PPE and Medical Supplies Roll-Up – October 4 to October 7 (Inclusive)**
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> **Contracting Updates:**
> A letter of interest and advanced purchase agreement are currently being drafted for **2,000,000 Roche SD Biosensor Antigen Tests** per month until March 2021.
> A contract has been established to procure **8,500,000 Abbot PanBio tests** to be delivered by December 2020 with an option to purchase an additional 12,000,000 tests to be delivered by the end of March 2021. (Note that these tests have recently received regulatory approval).
> Option 1 of the advanced purchase agreement with Abbott for the ID Now analyzing system has been approved. This approval establishes a contract with Abbott to procure **800 Abbott ID Now analyzers** and **2,500,000 test kits.** Note that Abbott's ID Now testing system has also recently received approval by HC.
> An advanced purchasing agreement (APA) with BD Veritor for **600 analyzers** and **2,100,000 tests** to be delivered by the end of December 2020 is currently pending approval. This APA would also provide the option to purchase an additional 1,572 analyzers and 5,499,990 tests to be delivered by the end of March 2021.
> A draft contract with Quidel for equipment related to the Sofia Antigen Test, including **500 analyzers** and **1,250,000 tests**, is currently under review by Quidel with a response expected by Thursday, October 8 2020. Note that Quidel has never had a previous contract with the Government of Canada.

A contract amendment with Roche is currently in the process of approvals. The previous contract involved the procurement of **3,287,232 COBAS tests** are to be delivered by the end of March 2021.

Testing and Contact Tracing:

COVID-19 Testing Device Applications Authorized by Health Canada: Health Canada regulators have authorized the Alinity M Sars-Cov-2 Amp Kit and is now posted in the authorized list.

Contact Tracing: Contact Tracing is being led by Statistics Canada with multi-lingual capacity in 35+ languages. Support is also available from Health Canada personnel. The current capacity can make 14,000 calls/day with capacity to immediately ramp up to 20,000 calls/day. Agreements are in place with ON, QC, AB. Agreements are also in progress with MB, PEI, NWT, NB, NL and discussions initiated by SK. Deployments are tailored on a case-by-case basis for specific needs, software (e.g. Ottawa, Toronto). Currently covering an average of 1350 calls per day for ON (500 tracers are available), 50 calls per day for AB (request for an additional 30 interviewers has been received). Ottawa has a team of 30 dedicated contact tracers on duty, ramping up additional support for Toronto (50 to start).

Isolation Sites: One isolation site is currently being funded in Toronto (funding for the next 12 months, support for those in crowded housing conditions), and one proposal has been submitted and is under review (Peel Region). There is work underway with PHAC regional directors in ON, QC and Western region to determine other possible sites based on requested need and/or epidemiological trends

Testing Capacity: The COVID Testing Assistance Response Team (CTART) is ready to deploy testing sites within 48-72 hours. One team is operational with capacity to ramp up to 10 teams by the end of calendar year.

Testing Developments:

- The Alinity m SARS-CoV-2 test: Alinity m is a molecular PCR test for use in laboratory settings, using nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs collected by a healthcare provider. The Alinity m SARS-CoV-2 assay is used with the Alinity m System. The Alinity m System is already licensed by Health Canada. Clinical evidence from the manufacturer indicates 100% sensitivity and 96.5% specificity. The Alinity m SARS-CoV-2 assay (test) is a real-time (rt) reverse transcriptase (RT) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test intended for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from the SARS-CoV-2 in nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) swabs collected by a healthcare provider.
- Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test Device: On October 5, Health Canada issued an authorization for the first COVID-19 antigen test: the Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test Device. This point-of-care test produces results within 20 minutes. It is intended to be used by a health care professional to test symptomatic individuals. Negative results from this test are considered "presumptive", which means that they cannot entirely rule out that the patient may be infected.
- P/Ts' planned deployment of the Abbott IDNow and Panbio tests:
  - AB will use tests for screening and surveillance at congregate homes and long term care facilities.
  - ON will use tests in long term care facilities, remote and rural communications, hot-spots, schools, current assessment centres, health care workers, and teachers and children.
  - NL will use tests in rural and remote communities and Indigenous communities.
  - NU and NWT will use tests to take pressure off isolation hubs where people are now having to quarantine for lengthy periods while tests are sent to the south for processing.
  - BC, SK, MB, QC, NB, NS, PEI, YK are still determining their plan.

COVID Alert:

As of Tuesday, October 6, the app has received **3,906,836** downloads (2,389,527 iPhone and 1,517,309 Android) of COVID Alert and **984** one-time keys have been claimed in the app.

Vaccines and Therapeutics:

Vaccines:

o According to *Reuters*, Moderna has been unable to recruit enough Black, Latino and Native American participants for its coronavirus vaccine trial, raising concerns for the company over how the vaccine's effectiveness and safety will be measured for those communities. This comes as a report by the National Urban League and other studies have shown that COVID-19 affects Black people in the U.S. at nearly three times the rate of white Americans, and they are twice as likely to die from the virus.

o A Chinese experimental coronavirus vaccine being developed by the Institute of Medical Biology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences was shown to be safe in an early stage clinical trial. In a Phase 1 trial of 191 healthy participants aged between 18 and 59, vaccination with the group's experimental shot showed no severe adverse reactions, its researchers said on October 7 in a paper posted on medRxiv preprint server ahead of peer review. The most common adverse reactions reported by the trial participants were mild pain, slight fatigue and redness, itching and swelling at the injection site. The candidate also induced immune response. China has inoculated hundreds of thousands of essential workers and other groups considered at high risk with other vaccines, even as clinical trials had not been fully completed, raising safety concerns among experts. China has at least four experimental vaccines in the final stage of clinical trials.

o Canadian researchers have launched a clinical trial of an existing vaccine that may prove to be effective against COVID-19. The vaccine, known as BCG, was originally developed to prevent tuberculosis. Administered in a single dose, the vaccine is no longer recommended for routine use in Canada where incidence of the lung disease is low. However, a raft of epidemiological studies suggests that it may be playing a broader role in reducing overall rates of respiratory disease.

Therapeutics:

o A pilot program involving the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Rockefeller Foundation aims to assess approaches for using rapid point-of-care antigen testing to screen for SARS-CoV-2 infection. The program will involve multiple study sites across the US and will use at least 120,000 Abbott BinaxNOW SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests

o Pharmaceutical manufacturer Eli Lilly submitted an EUA request to the FDA for its monoclonal antibody cocktail as a COVID-19 treatment after clinical trials for the drugs met the target clinical endpoints. Results from a Phase 2 clinical trial indicate that a combination of two of Eli Lilly's monoclonal antibodies reduced viral load in COVID-19 patients, mitigated symptoms and resulted in fewer hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

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