

Malinoski, Brooke

From: Thalmann, Brett
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 6:12 PM
To: Telford, Katie; Broadhurst, Jeremy; Theis, Rick; Stickney, Matt; Surkes, Marci
Cc: Malinoski, Brooke; Strom, Kirsten
Subject: Testing Progress but key immediate challenge

Importance: High

Categories: Motion - Health

On the slight good news front, nationally we conducted 30k tests yesterday, a new high. Biggest jump in Ontario yesterday with testing numbers down in AB and BC. Still far off from the PHAC goal of 58k per day.

Also, PSPC has worked with LuminUltra to revise their contract for the domestic production of reagent. The contract has been extended from 10 weeks to 50 weeks and will supply enough reagent to support **500,000 tests per week (71k per day)** (25,000,000 extractions in total). Under the revised terms, LuminUltra will source the materials, prepare test kits, and distribute to provinces directly (previously, the National Microbiology Lab (NML) was to handle distribution).

But, the national testing goal is not ambitious enough by a factor of 4-5x. BCG estimates that we need to be testing at a rate of 214k per day including a substantial random sampling testing of the population. That lines up with what I am seeing from various epidemiologists in Canada commenting on this. Dan also raised with me the idea of randomly sample testing of population would be very effective.

I think we need to quickly get PHAC and Health to adopt a much more ambitious testing target and then get focused on supply chain (we would need 3x the amount of reagent than what PSPC just procured), resourcing and logistics required to meet that new goal on an expedited timeline. Killian is going to send me more backup info to support their suggested testing goal.

I have a call with the clerk on Monday afternoon on testing re his new pco hire to lead this effort and federal testing plan. Will aim for a meeting with Health and PHAC on Tuesday on testing. I really think we need to create federal testing capacity and explore private sector partnerships (like in Iceland) to rapidly increase the testing capacity.

I firmly believe that the rapid escalation of testing capacity is an absolute priority for restart and we may need the PM to get involved directly on this.

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