

## Kim, Sabrina

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**From:** Stickney, Matt  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 7:45 AM  
**To:** Kim, Sabrina  
**Cc:** Clow, Brian  
**Subject:** Re: Swabs

Yeah. Health is tracking down all shipments that went out from this order.

It was bound to happen but we should now anticipate stricter testing on orders when they arrive which will impact timeline on getting orders to provinces.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2020, at 10:59 PM, Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca> wrote:

Yikes. Thanks for sharing. Should I share these bullets from Steve to the earlier summary I sent to the team?

Since they're considering a stop work - would be helpful to know how significant of a player / supplier ESBE scientific is in Canada. I shall ask PSPC.

Also, just realizing the chart Sabina sent earlier shows a few thousand swabs from ESBE were sent to Indigenous communities via ISC.

Sabrina Kim  
Issues Advisor  
Office of the Prime Minister  
613-795-7803

On Apr 10, 2020, at 10:40 PM, Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca> wrote:

FYI.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Saini, Sabina (HC/SC)" <sabina.saini@canada.ca>  
**Date:** April 10, 2020 at 10:35:12 PM EDT  
**To:** "Stickney, Matt" <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Theis, Rick" <Rick.Theis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Swabs

Don't know if you got this but here is some more info.

S.

Sabina Saini  
Chief of Staff/Chef du Cabinet  
Office of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health/Bureau  
de l'honorable Patty Hajdu, ministre de la Santé

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lucas, Stephen (HC/SC)"  
<[stephen.lucas@canada.ca](mailto:stephen.lucas@canada.ca)>  
**Date:** April 10, 2020 at 10:13:23 PM EDT  
**To:** "Saini, Sabina (HC/SC)"  
<[sabina.saini@canada.ca](mailto:sabina.saini@canada.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Namiesniowski, Tina (PHAC/ASPC)"  
<[tina.namiesniowski@canada.ca](mailto:tina.namiesniowski@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** Swabs

PSPC shared this with their mino.

1. Public Health Agency  
Canada/National Microbiology Lab selected  
ESBE Scientific, a well-known, reputable  
Canadian lab supplier
2. PSPC awarded the contract on  
PHAC's behalf for the purchase 6.8M swabs
3. The normal gold star swab producers  
are Copan (Italy) and Puritan (USA), neither  
are taking immediate orders
4. ESBE Scientific used a Chinese  
manufacturing plant to produce the swab.  
This is not a manufacturing plant that ESB  
deals with regularly but the surge in global  
demand has forced suppliers to work with  
new supply chains
5. The first batches of swabs (300,000  
swabs) started to arrive in Canada earlier  
this week
6. The quality of the swab has proven to  
be inferior potentially creating false  
negatives or transmitting risk
7. As a next step ESBE will take the next  
100,000 swabs from Shanghai (~ 4 days  
from now with arrival in Canada) for  
extensive testing. ESBE is evaluating  
whether to continue or put a stop work order  
in place
8. I notice when reviewing the flight  
manifest, over and above GoC order of  
ESBE swabs, the provinces are also using  
the same supplier and would likely be  
encountering similar quality issues.

Stephen Lucas, PhD  
Deputy Minister  
Health Canada