

Kim, Sabrina

From: Natacha.Engel@international.gc.ca
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Kim, Sabrina
Cc: Zimmerman, Shannon; travis.gordon2@canada.ca; Kevin.Wong@international.gc.ca
Subject: RE: Update #2: Unusable swabs from ESBE

Hi Sabrina,

Let me look into that and get back to you.

Natacha Engel, LL.M., M.S.V.D., M.B.A.

Senior Policy Advisor | Conseillère principale en politiques

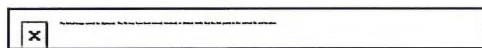
Office of the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

Cabinet de la ministre de la Petite Entreprise, de la Promotion des exportations et du Commerce international

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Global Affairs Canada | Affaires mondiales Canada

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada



De : Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

Envoyé : 12 avril 2020 16:23

À : Engel, Natacha -MINT <Natacha.Engel@international.gc.ca>

Cc : Zimmerman, Shannon <Shannon.Zimmerman@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca>; Gordon2, Travis (HC/SC) <travis.gordon2@canada.ca>; Wong, Kevin -MINA <Kevin.Wong@international.gc.ca>

Objet : FW: Update #2: Unusable swabs from ESBE

Hi there – wondering if your officials have provided an update on their convos with intl partners re: potentially securing a supply of emergency swabs for P/Ts? Some context on the issue is below. Sorry to bother ya on Easter. We were told yesterday that certain P/Ts will run out of swabs in three days so just wanted to see if you had any info.

Also wondering if your officials have shared any kind of analysis into what the implications are for Canada re: China's latest PPE export ban, as well as an update on China's increased quality control & testing efforts of supplies before they ship them out.

Thanks!
Sabrina

From: Kim, Sabrina

Subject: Update #2: Unusable swabs from ESBE

Hello – please see below for an update on the faulty swabs issue:

- PSPC awarded a contract to ESBE on PHAC's behalf for the purchase 6.8M swabs
- ESBE used a Chinese manufacturing plant to produce the swabs
- The first batches of swabs (300,000 swabs) started to arrive in Canada last week and were delivered to many P/Ts
- The quality of the swab has proven to be inferior, potentially creating false negatives or transmitting risk

- ESBE has issued a “do not use” notice to P/T laboratories
- Alberta, Quebec and Manitoba have indicated that they will run out of swabs in the next few days
- Health, PSPC and ISED officials are currently pursuing five lines of work:
 - o 1) Procuring alternative swabs (I.E. wooden swabs)
 - We currently have 40k at the National Microbiology Lab
 - o 2) Sterilizing the 300k contaminated swabs
 - We will know by Monday if there is an effective sterilization process that will allow for the swabs to be used safely
 - P/T laboratories have been asked to hold onto the swabs until Monday if there is indeed an effective process
 - o 3) 3D Printing of swabs
 - ISED is working with two companies on this but ramp up won't be fast enough to satisfy immediate needs
 - o 4) Working with auto manufacturing to see if they can re-tool to produce swabs
 - o 5) GAC is using its international networks to seek an emergency supply of swabs