BUILDING A **SAFE** AND **RESILIENT CANADA**

OCTOBER 19, 2020, EXTENDED NATIONAL CROSS SECTOR FORUM (E-NCSF) TELECONFERENCE – SUMMARY

Following the October 19, 2020 Extended National Cross Sector Forum (E-NCSF) for Critical Infrastructure COVID-19 Teleconference please see below updates, key action items and themes from the meeting.

Government of Canada updates:

Public Safety Canada (PS)

- Public Safety Canada (PS) is transitioning our tools and engagement to virtual platforms. For example, PS has worked with the Cyber Centre to develop an online Canadian Cyber Security Tool aimed at helping organizations assess their cyber security measures. The tool will be launched in the coming months and will be available for all CI sectors

- PS is working closely with PHAC on vaccine prioritization guidelines, with a goal to ensuring that CI stakeholders and workers will be prioritized appropriately

- PS is looking for feedback regarding the Essential Services Contingency Reserve for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To provide feedback on your experience with accessing the reserve, or the program in general, please contact CI Engagements

- PS has been working with Global Affairs Canada, Canadian Border Security Agency (CBSA) and the Public Health Agency of Canada on the issues being faced by CI and essential services workers when crossing international borders for essential work

  o A guidance document on current travel restrictions and border measures is being drafted, which will be shared once finalized

  o PS has invited CBSA to discuss COVID-19-related border measures at an upcoming E-NCSF meeting

- PS is responding to the feedback provided through the After Action Review of processes and response to COVID-19 - some examples include:

  o Planning a virtual multi-sector meeting in the new year, to which E-NCSF participants will be invited;

  o Sharing critical documents on the CI Gateway and evaluating the user experience on the portal;

  o Including the Cyber Centre on the E-NCSF standing agenda going forward; and,

  o Inviting Provincial/Territorial colleagues to provide briefings at the E-NCSF on the response to COVID-19

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

- There has been an increase of cases of COVID-19 since mid-august with an average of 2,300 new cases over a seven-day period, with Quebec, Ontario and Western Canada showing the most notable increase

- Canada is using a targeted approach to respond to the second wave of COVID-19

  o While general recommendations should be applied across Canada with respect to social distancing, proper hygiene and the use of masks, more restrictive measures are targeted according to risk

  o There has been strong collaboration between all levels of government to protect the most vulnerable populations

  o PHAC published new guidance regarding Federal/Provincial/Territorial public health response plans for ongoing management of COVID-19

- The influenza awareness campaign is underway with 21% more influenza vaccines ordered for this year over previous years

  o The influenza vaccine will not prevent COVID-19, but PHAC is putting in place measures to mitigate the potential for simultaneous outbreaks of COVID-19 and influenza

- Work continues on developing a vaccine for COVID-19

  o Process is taking place at an unprecedented speed, while still ensuring a thorough and robust review

  o PHAC is working domestically and internationally to secure vaccine supply for Canadians – there are multiple advance purchase agreements in place

  o The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is currently working on guidance for vaccine deployment which will be shared once completed

    - The prioritization process will be contingent on the characteristics of the approved vaccine and the target populations for which it is effective

    - There will be an active public education campaign to help Canadians understand the prioritization of approved vaccines

- PHAC has released updated guidance on testing for COVID-19:

  o Federal/provincial/territorial public health response plan for ongoing management of COVID-19

  o Risk mitigation tool for workplaces/businesses operating during the COVID-19 pandemic

Health Canada - COVID Alert App

- The COVID Alert App is designed to send an exposure notification to an user who may have been exposed to COVID-19

- The app does not trace contacts and does not collect personal information

- The app is free to Canadians and can be downloaded through the *Apple* or *Google Play* stores

- To date, the app has been downloaded over 4.5 million times and is currently available in Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan

- Since July, over 1,700 users of the app have tested positive for COVID-19

- Health Canada implements a 6-week marketing campaign when a province/ territory launches the app

- Health Canada is working with private sector partners to increase uptake on the App

Canadian Centre for Cyber Security - Cyber security update in the context of COVID-19

Before clicking on the links posted on the CI Gateway in this next section, please log in into the CI Gateway Portal. If you require access to the portal, please reach out to the CI Gateway inbox to complete registration.

- The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS) published a threat bulletin, Modern Ransomware and Its Evolution (on the CI Gateway), in September 2020 to share information about ransomware in Canada as well as lessons learned
  - In recent years, ransomware has increasingly impacted industrial control systems (ICS), used by critical infrastructure providers
- The CCCS has been collaborating with health entities across Canada to prevent and mitigate cyber threats by providing tips, guidance and best practices through Health Sector Community Calls : Cyber Security Considerations For Consumers of Managed Services (on the CI Gateway)
- CCCS is discussing security operations and conducting evaluations around critical supply chains, looking at potential security risks at all stages of the production process
  - The CCCS recommends looking at the supply chain in its entirety, to ensure that organizations are working collaboratively with service providers to lower cyber security risks
- For tips on how to use your devices safely, visit the Cyber Security at Home and in the Office guide (download PDF) or Cyber Security at Home and in the Office guide (on the CI Gateway)

<u>Next steps</u>

The next E-NCSF teleconference will take place on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. An invitation will follow in the coming weeks.