

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Sent: March 29, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC); Gordon2, Travis (HC/SC)
Cc: Stickney, Matt; Saini, Sabina (HC/SC); Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC)
Subject: FYI - Media Qs re supplies issues from pressers this morn

Also, while we're all on this chain, just an FYI that these were the PPE / other supply related Qs from today's pressers, including one that the PM got on the Dutch mask delivery from China.

Thanks. ☺

PM Presser Q:

Ian Woods – CTV

Q: The Dutch gov has sent back 600,000 masks to China that they deemed were defective. When will we receive the masks that China has said they will send to us and what assurances do we have that they will be effective? How is your relationship with China?

- Will be receiving equipment from China extremely shortly, in the coming days
- HC has very strong procedures for evaluating, for ensuring that what we get is up to the necessary standards
- There will be no corners cut on this one
- Need to make sure equipment that workers rely on is of a quality that will actually do the job
- Will continue to engage with the world and try to work collaboratively
- Countries need to set aside their differences to get us through this as best possible and that is the approach we're taking

Daily Ministers Presser Qs:

Mia Rabson – CP

Q: Can you talk to Canadians about this explosion of ppl trying to offer homemade face masks, whether you think these are recommended, whether people should avoid them etc. And can you talk about the building of temporary sites & what kind of fed coordination there is under that?

Dr. Tam

- We ask that ppl with symptoms cover up their cough or sneezes – can be with a tissue and if you don't have that, cough into your sleeve
- Masks can be helpful for people who are symptomatic when it comes to reducing droplets
- If you're in a healthcare setting – those masks are regulated by HC – standard ppl have to meet
- We have issued guidance in terms of alternatives that can be used – I encourage ppl who are making masks for diff purposes to consult the HC guidance on their website

Q: I'm talking about homemade masks though that people are making at home. Also – what about temporary hospital sites?

Dr. Tam

- I am aware that at the p/ts and feds are preparing surge sites & are helping build up hospital capacity; provincial jurisdiction but we are here to help

Mackenzie Gray – CTV

Q: You said Canada has 5,000 ventilators right now. Gov Cuomo said NYC needs 30,000 ventilators. How many ventilators do you think Canada needs?

Dr. Ngoo

- What I said earlier was based off an estimate at that time
- Obviously this is evergreen
- We are undertaking another inventory with p/ts to make new determinations

Q: But we will need more than the 5,000 than what we have right now?

Dr. Ngoo

- Yes certainly
- We are in the process of ordering more ventilators so we can provide surge capacity
- We certainly have it ready and are ready to deploy as needed

Dr. Tam

- We pre-emptively ordered an additional 600 and we continue to order more
- Also looking at domestic capacity of manufacturers in Canada such as Thornhill & those are ongoing discussions to get access to inventory as we speak

Ashley Burke – CBC

Q: You have said there are enough medical supplies across Canada. But we're hearing from frontline workers that they're rationing supplies like masks. What is the disconnect?

Dr. Tam

- PPE like masks are a critical supply
- Of course there are supply issues – not just in Canada but globally
- At the same time, responding to a pandemic is about handling & prioritizing your most critical and scarce resources
- Hospitals are practicing how they can reduce a burn rate – you're probably seeing some of that practice going on pre-emptively because you cannot burn through a lot of protective equipment
- So what you're seeing while we're getting some more

Mackenzie Gray – CTV

Q: During WWII, we guaranteed companies that we'd purchase everything they made for the war effort after the world was done. For businesses moving away from their existing business to build supplies like ventilators & masks... will you assure them that the Cdn gov will purchase things from them and reimburse them for their efforts?

Min Duclos

- We are in a situation that is similar to a situation of war
- Therefore the industrial policy and the procurement abilities of the fed gov are absolutely essential
- Just a week ago, we announced that much of our industrial capacity in Canada, including the procurement ability of the gov to channel and support industrial capacity, will be directed towards fighting COVID-19
- This requires ways of doing things with businesses that we haven't seen in a while – I know that Min Anand and Bains are working diligently and that there will be announcements soon

Q: If I'm a business looking to change my supply chains though, but I haven't heard back from the GoC. Should I go ahead and do that anyway? Will the gov buy what I am making if I haven't gotten in touch with them?

Min Duclos

- We understand there is a lot of ability & willingness
- We would encourage those companies to be in touch with PSPC and with ISED to make sure that this effort is coordinated & supports us appropriately

From: Kim, Sabrina

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:13 AM

To: 'Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC)' <leslie.church@canada.ca>; Gordon2, Travis (HC/SC) <travis.gordon2@canada.ca>

Cc: Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Saini, Sabina (HC/SC) <sabina.saini@canada.ca>; Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC) <kelly.murdock@canada.ca>

Subject: RE: Quick q from PM re mask orders

Perfect. Thank you x10 for the clarifications. ☺

From: Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC) <leslie.church@canada.ca>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Gordon2, Travis (HC/SC) <travis.gordon2@canada.ca>
Cc: Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Saini, Sabina (HC/SC) <sabina.saini@canada.ca>; Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC) <kelly.murdock@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Quick q from PM re mask orders

Just got some clearer guidance which is helpful:

The manufacturing facility must hold a medical devices establishment licence from Health Canada. The requirements for masks themselves vary by their intention. For example, N95 masks are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety, but it is possible to use non-NIOSH masks as well.

See the link from Health Canada which is helpful in explaining how the process works for masks for covid-19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/masks-respirators-covid19.html>

Resellers are not authorized, but HC needs to give a licence to their manufacturer, which has happened in all of our orders for masks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2020, at 10:50 AM, Gordon2, Travis (HC/SC) <travis.gordon2@canada.ca> wrote:

And just to add on the HC side: for medical devices, if the manufacturer can show us an FDA auth, we fast track their licence review as we have a Mutual Recognition Agreement with them.

Notwithstanding FDA approval, all COVID-19 medical products are being reviewed on a priority basis. The timelines are all severely crunched and much, much shorter than ordinary.

TG

--

Travis Gordon
Senior Policy Advisor
613-410-2938

----- Original message -----

From: "Church, Leslie (SPAC/PSPC)" <leslie.church@canada.ca>
Date: 2020-03-29 10:36 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Stickney, Matt" <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: "Kim, Sabrina" <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Saini, Sabina (HC/SC)" <sabina.saini@canada.ca>, "Gordon2, Travis (HC/SC)" <travis.gordon2@canada.ca>, "Murdock, Kelly (SPAC/PSPC)" <kelly.murdock@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Quick q from PM re mask orders

Adding this HC doc which describes the licensing process for suppliers, including distributors. So yes, this is an important part of getting medical grade, FDA approved goods.