

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Collaboration on a Strategic Approach to Testing and Contact Tracing

May 27, 2020

YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY... OUR PRIORITY.



Goal:

- To ensure the capacity required to rapidly detect cases, trace contacts, and isolate and quarantine infected individuals in order to support economic restart and living with COVID-19 in the new normal
- To ramp up capacity for 200,000 tests per day

Criteria and measures needed to restart the economy:

Sufficient public health capacity is in place to test, trace and isolate all cases

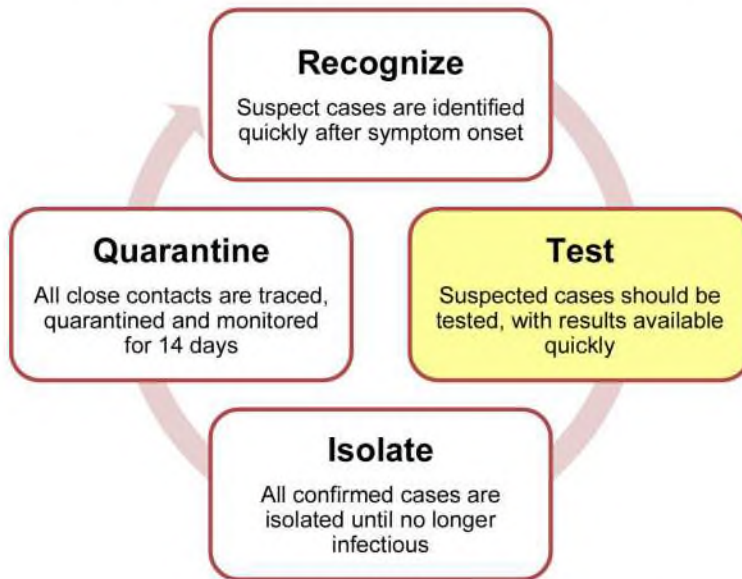
- Testing capacity
- Resources to trace contacts
- Ability to isolate cases
- Ability to quarantine all contacts

Criteria and Measures from First Ministers Joint Statement

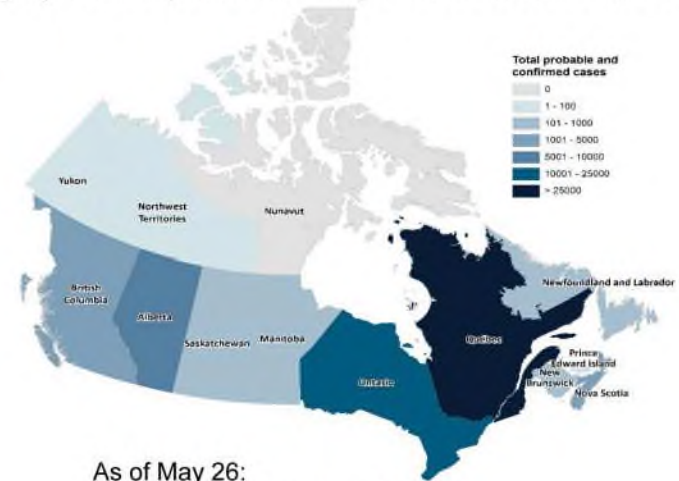
- **COVID-19 transmission is controlled** *(Update provided May 15)*
- **Workplace preventative measures** *(Update provided May 8)*
- **Sufficient public health capacity is in place to test, trace, and isolate all cases** *(Update provided April 30)*
- **Supports are in place for vulnerable groups/communities and key populations**
- **Expanded health care capacity exists for all patients, COVID-19 and non-COVID-19**
- **Avoiding risk of importation**
- **Engage and Support Communities to adjust to the new normal**

The testing and contact tracing strategy is grounded within a broader public health approach for each province and territory

To ensure an effective public health approach for COVID-19, testing is optimized within a broader process:



The strategy is designed to flexibly respond to the highly varied pandemic experience across the country



As of May 26:

- **1,500,557** people were tested
- **39,920** people tested per million population
- Cumulative percent positive was **5.3%**

...calibrated to support re-opening of economic activity

The federal government will continue to play an active leadership role driving the vision and collaboration with provinces and territories

“First Ministers discussed the **tremendous importance** of testing and contact tracing for any successful restart of the economy, and how the federal government can support provinces and territories in this regard. First Ministers endorsed **further federal, provincial, and territorial collaboration** to ensure the necessary resources, technology and supplies are in place to expand testing and contact tracing.”

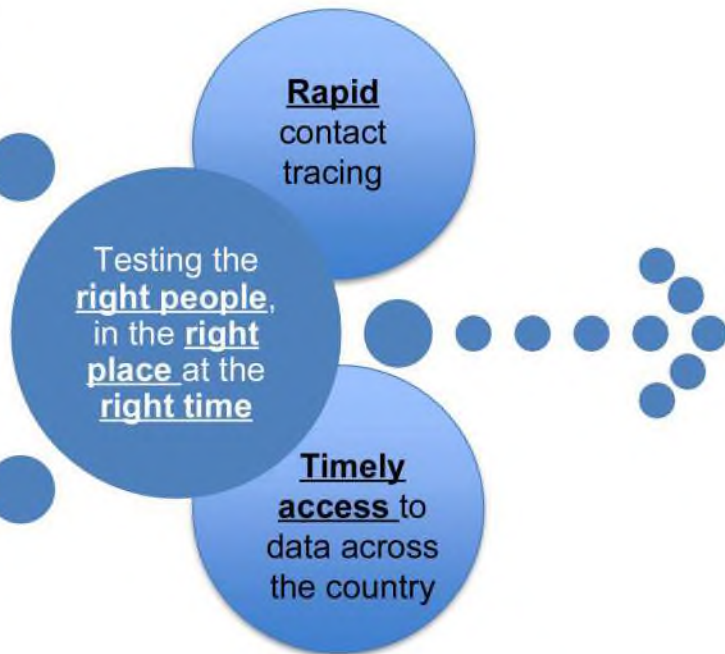
Prime Minister's Read-out from the May 14 First Ministers' Meeting

The path forward is advancing on two tracks...

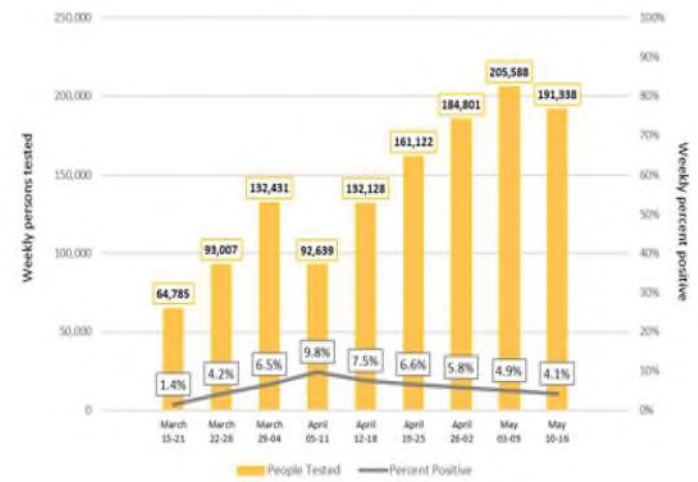
Track 1: Supporting provincial/territorial plans – smart strategies targeted to epidemiology



Track 2: Ensuring robust capacity, including for surges



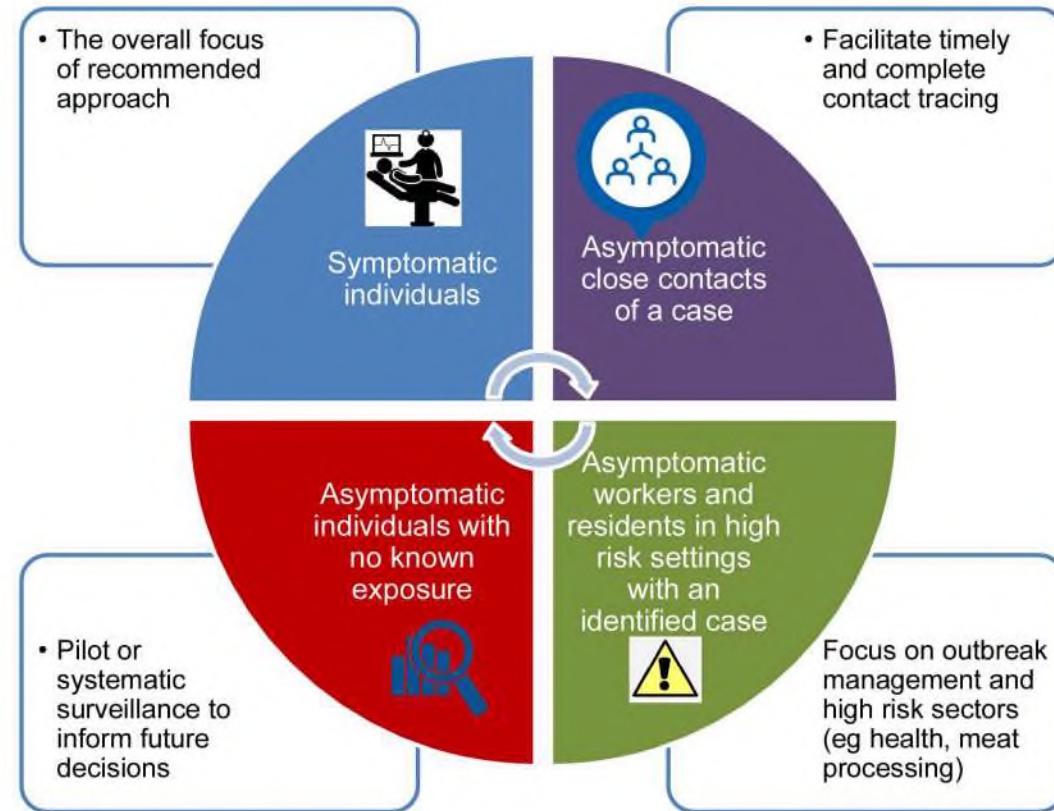
We are moving in the right direction



...with the two tracks merging over time

Track 1: Testing capacity is meeting current provincial and territorial needs

- Daily testing levels have now exceeded 30,000, with national public health capacity currently estimated at 60,000 tests/day.
- The FPT Special Advisory Committee is updating its national testing guidance and provinces and territories are evolving their testing approaches, broadening the scope of targeted populations to be tested.



Track 2: Survey of provinces and territories identified key issues to inform targeted actions to build robust diagnostic testing capacity

Key rate limiting factors identified by provinces and territories:

- **Materials:** swabs, reagents, PPE
- **Collection:** number of regulated professionals to collect specimens
- **Transportation and distribution** throughout the testing delivery chain, particularly in remote locations
- **Lab capacity:** limitations in space and personnel in public health labs

Accelerate targeted actions to scale up to 200,000+ tests/day:



Build a macro model to ensure **national early warning capability** on supply and demand for swabs, lab reagents, human resources, equipment and infrastructure



Increase **early and strategic procurement** of supplies through foreign procurement, augmenting domestic production and leapfrogging Canadian innovation



Leverage and **train partners throughout the testing service and delivery chain:**

Private sector and academic labs / Pharmacies / Others

Survey of provincial public health officials identified key issues to inform targeted actions to build robust contact tracing capacity

Key observations noted by provinces and territories:

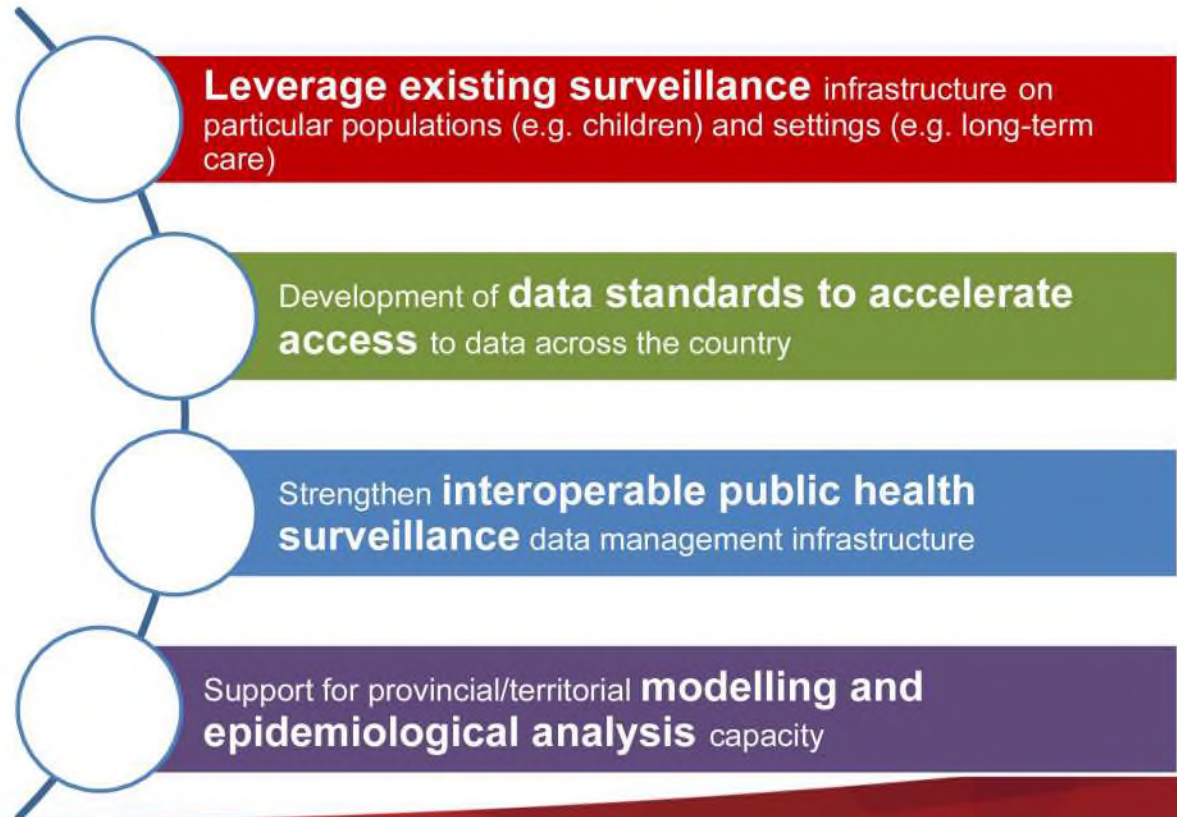
- **Timeliness and completeness** are critical
- **Surge capacity** through local, provincial and federal human resource capacity is effective.
- **Technology apps** are necessary and are being studied



Survey of provincial public health officials identified key issues to inform targeted actions timely national access to health data

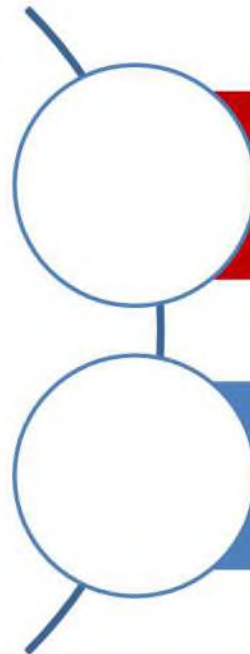
Key observations noted by provinces and territories:

- **Vision for a pan-Canadian public health electronic information system** has not yet been achieved.
- **Processes for data management** among health units is limited
- Funding required to **modernize systems** (e.g. paper to digital)
- Limited capacity to **share information in open data platforms** to support (and accelerate) research for and outside of public health



The strategy will position Canada to maximize benefits from serological testing

- The Immunity Task Force (ITF) will address how immunity develops, how strong it is, and how long it lasts.
 - Immediate priority was to **identify and procure** high performing serological tests
 - Now focused on beginning to roll out **first tranche of sero-surveys** to draw on >40,000 samples from Canada's blood donors to give an initial baseline in early June
 - Goal of **1,000,000 tests over 2 years**



Health Canada has now **authorized two serological tests.**

Analysis underway to support **early and strategic procurement** of serological tests

Scientific advances in serological testing may have significant medical, public health, societal and economic implications

- **Strategic workplan** developed across 3 critical areas
 1. Field studies to understand levels of infection in the population as a whole across Canada, together with drill downs on special populations (e.g., care workers, children, Indigenous)
 2. Universal good standards on testing, drawing on federal/provincial laboratory infrastructure – creating decentralized, assured quality to manage growing demands
 3. Investing in fundamental research on COVID-19 virus and immunity

