



# Covid-19 Management Strategy

July 31, 2020



# Purpose

- Outline a **COVID-19 risk management strategy that supports safe reopening, living with COVID-19, and planning for longer-term recovery**

Sustained  
Epidemic  
Prevention and  
Control

Preparing for  
Potential  
Resurgence

Vaccines and  
Treatment for  
Longer-Term  
Recovery

- The strategy must be supported by:
  - Science and Evidence
  - Scenario Planning
  - Work with provinces/territories, Indigenous communities, businesses and other stakeholders
  - Strong public communications

As of Jul 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

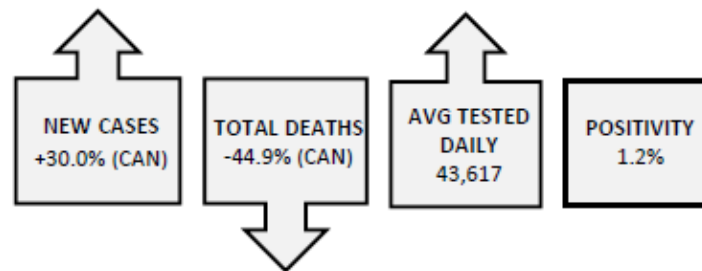
## National Trends

- Number of new cases reported in Canada have increased over the last 7 days (30.0%); number of deaths in Canada continues to decrease.
- Shift in the demographics of cases reported in central and western Canada to those under 40 years.
- The Rt for Canada continues to fluctuate around 1.
- Hospitalizations are leveling off in recent weeks.
- Public health measures messaging needs adapted to the current risk populations.

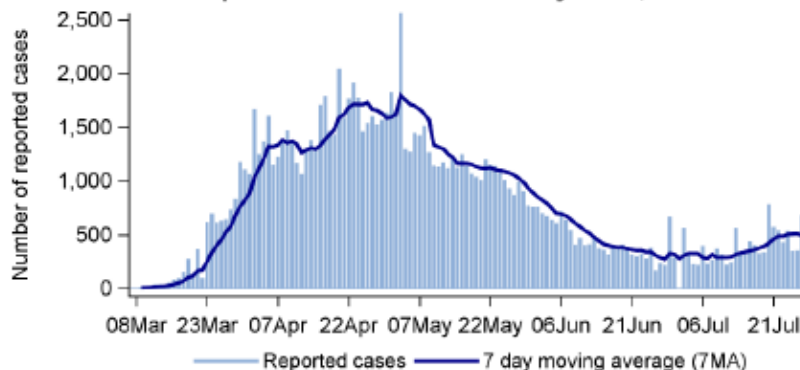
## Outbreaks and High Transmission Areas

- BC** Many new cases are from community exposure during increased social interactions over the summer.
- AB** Recent outbreaks have been linked to new settings (food and beverage establishments and retail sector).
- SK** SK currently reports the highest rate per capita in Canada, mainly driven by cases in Central and South health regions.
- ON/QC** Outbreaks continue in agricultural settings. An increase of cases reported among those under 40. New outbreaks reported linked to social venues (restaurants, daycamps).

## Cases and Severity – Weekly Trends



## Reported COVID19 cases by date, Canada



Health Portfolio Operations Centre  
July 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. ET

# Surveillance and data systems: Moving Forward

## Case and Outbreak-Based Surveillance

- More granular reporting on COVID-19 cases
- Systematic reporting of cases - PHAC via the provinces and territories
- Formalized, systematic reporting of outbreaks is forthcoming (fall 2020)

## Laboratory Surveillance

- Strategies for targeted testing in high risk populations, serology and genomic studies

## Environmental Surveillance

- Pilot and validate methodology for microbiologic studies to detect COVID-19 in waste water as early signal

## Early Warning Surveillance

- Finalize and launch a new warning dashboard and monitoring system on early trends, hotspots and outbreaks, leveraging non-traditional sources of information to provide earlier warnings
- Pulling intelligence from multiple syndromic surveillance and mobility data streams, including PHAC FluWatchers, Canada COVID-19 Thrive app: symptoms, and Mobility monitoring via Blue Dot and TELUS

# Preparing for a variety of possible resurgence scenarios

## Scenario 1 – Peaks and Valleys

- First peak of COVID-19 in spring 2020 is followed by a series of repetitive peaks of similar size that occur consistently over a 1- to 2-year period.
- **Not desirable** - but not the worst case scenario.

## Scenario 2 – Fall Peak

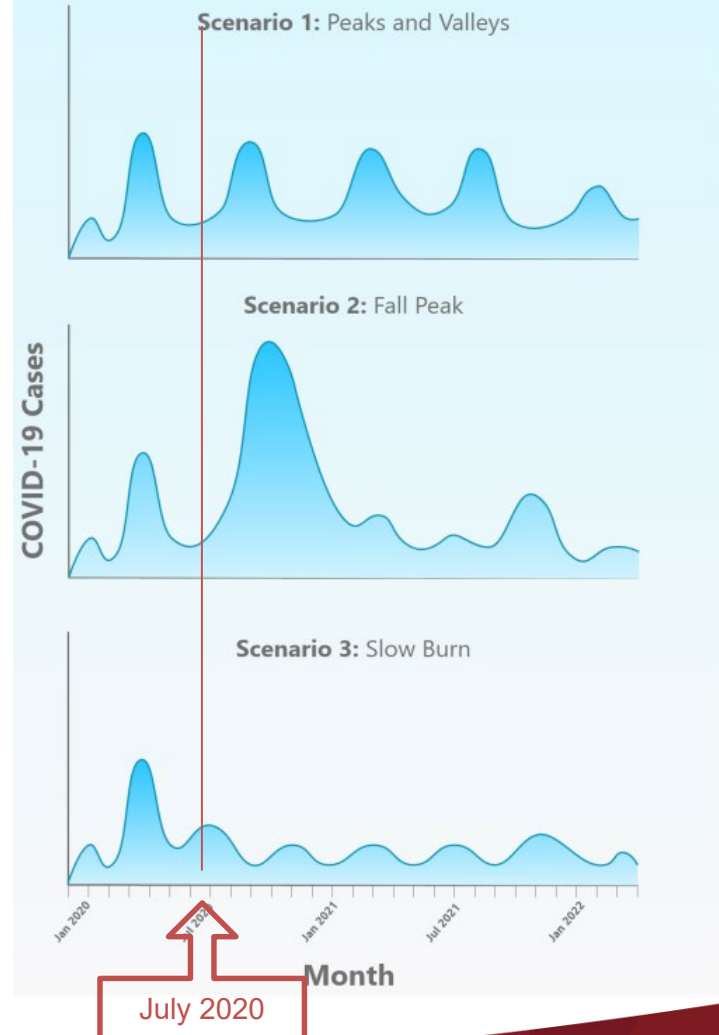
- First peak of COVID-19 in spring 2020 is followed by a much larger peak in the fall of 2020 and then smaller subsequent peaks in 2021.
- **This is a plausible worst case scenario**

## Scenario 3 – Slow Burn

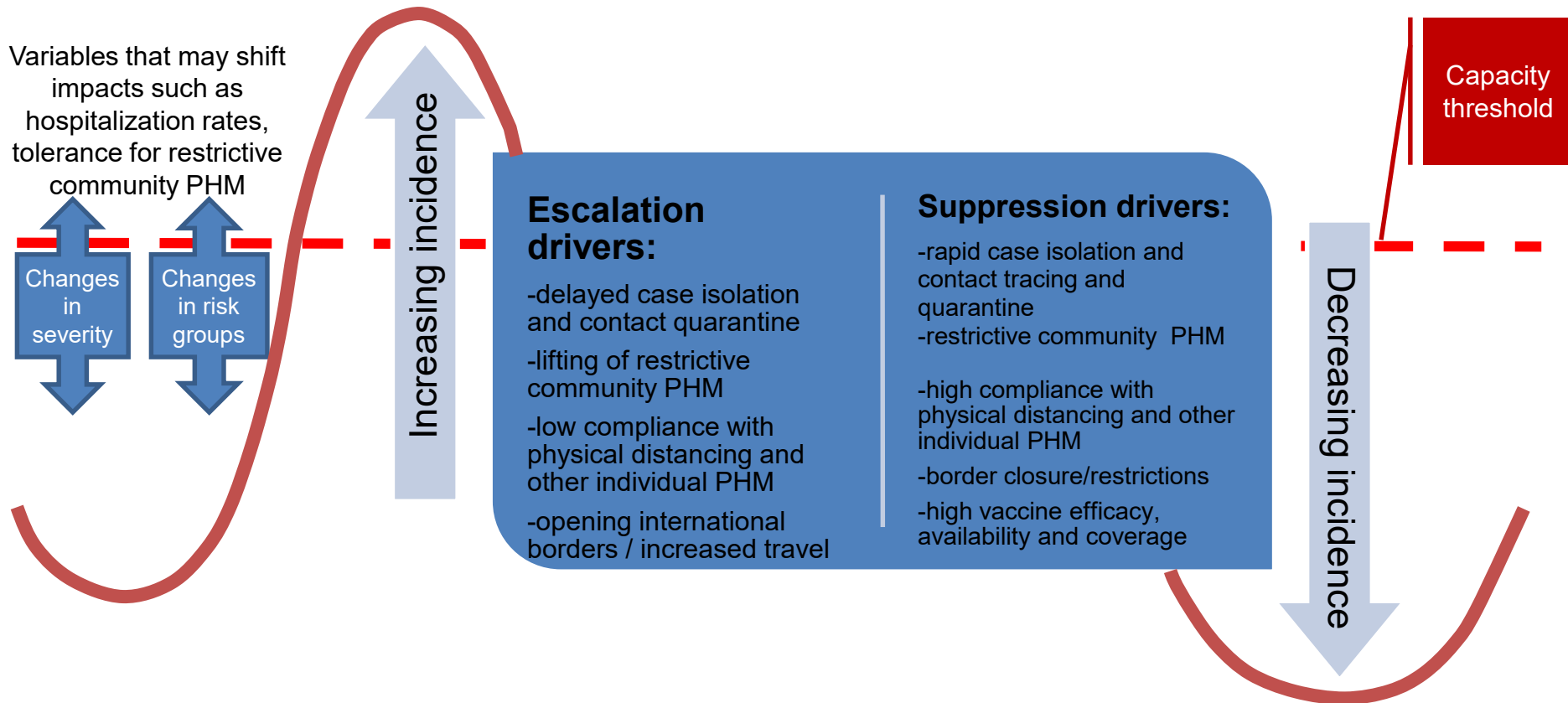
- First peak of COVID-19 in spring 2020 is followed by a “**slow burn**” (slow, steady, relatively low level activity) of ongoing transmission and case occurrence, but without clear peaks and valleys.
- No more than 10% of Canadians are infected by the end of 2021
- This is a **reasonable best case scenario**

### Possible Pandemic Wave Scenarios for COVID-19

Centre for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota,  
COVID-19: The CIDRAP Viewpoint, April 30, 2020.



# Resurgence Drivers



Consideration of all of these drivers would lead to multiple scenarios. For planning purposes best to focus on what we can control/influence (e.g., use of restrictive measures) and then consider how to prepare to mitigate worst case variations.

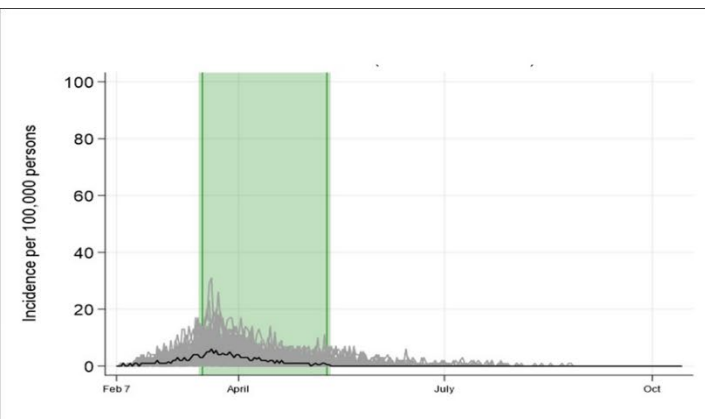
# Public Health Measures: Moving Forward

- We are continuing to refine a robust, targeted and behaviourally-informed communications strategy with nationally consistent messages, updating with evidence as it emerges
- Also working to deliver with PTs the FPT Public Health Response Plan for the Ongoing Management of Covid-19

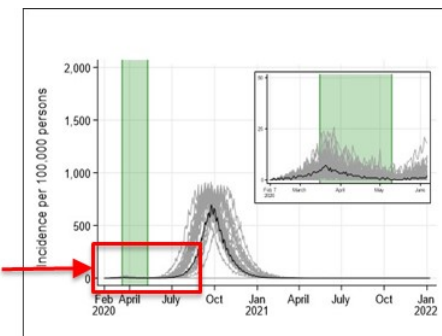
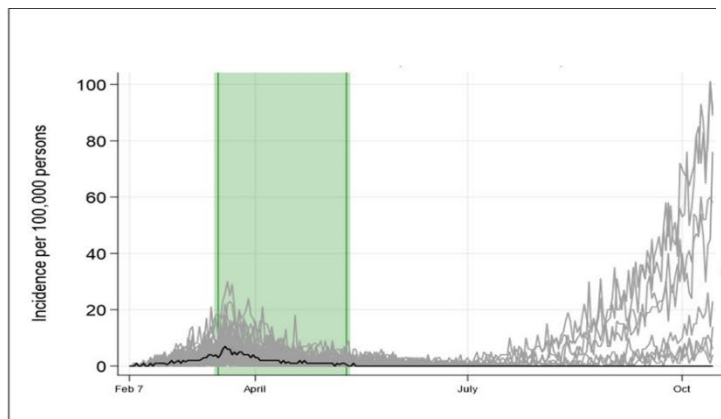
## *We need to strike the right balance:*

- When we lift restrictive measures (e.g., re-open schools and businesses), we must maintain and ensure implementation in newly re-opened settings of other recommended public health measures (e.g., personal physical distancing) to maintain epidemic control = **“slow burn”**
- Lifting restrictive community-based measures without facilitating a high level of adherence with other recommended public health measures will likely cause the epidemic to rebound = **“fall-winter peak”**

**Ease population-based measures  
Strengthen other public health measures**



**Ease population-based measures  
Insufficient other public health measures**



# Elements of a COVID-19 Management Strategy

- Nine key and closely related elements:
  - 1) Surveillance and Data
  - 2) Public Health Measures
  - 3) Testing, Contact Tracing and Data Management
  - 4) Borders
  - 5) Vulnerable Populations
  - 6) Health System Capacity
  - 7) Personal Protective Equipment
  - 8) Vaccines and other Medical Countermeasures
  - 9) Communications
- Whole of Government approach required



Prevention and Control

Preparation for  
Resurgence

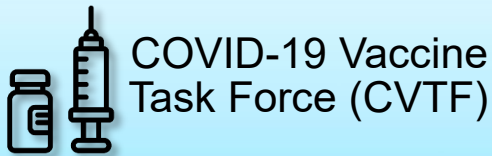
Longer-term recovery



# Vaccines and other Medical Countermeasures: Current Status

Vaccines, therapeutics and bio-manufacturing will be essential to our longer-term ability to manage COVID-19

- Vaccine Task Force (VTF), Therapeutics Task Force, and Bio-Manufacturing Sub-Committee struck to provide strategic advice to the GoC on investments in medical countermeasures



A high-profile, interdisciplinary team comprised of internationally respected leaders with deep expertise in vaccine research, production, commercialization and manufacturing will assess and provide recommendations on vaccine proposals submitted for funding



A separate but parallel Therapeutics Task Force will provide advice to the Government of Canada on COVID-19 therapeutic projects seeking support for activities in Canada



Members of the CVTF and TTF have struck a Bio-manufacturing Sub-committee to provide strategic advice on the next phase of Canada's bio-manufacturing investments

# Summary

- Sustained **focus on epidemic control and suppression of outbreaks, while ensuring preparedness for a possible resurgence**
  - Early warning, surveillance, and applying lessons learned are foundational to this work
- This will need **sustained close collaboration with Provinces / Territories on a coordinated approach** to both support the safe restart of the economy and prepare for a potential resurgence of COVID-19
- Accelerated work to **enable access for Canadians to safe and effective vaccines and treatments**
- **Robust public communications approach**
  - Tailored risk communication on how individual actions and targeted public health measures can help stop transmission and guard against outbreaks and resurgences
  - Development and release of overall plan to tell the whole story of where we've been, scenarios and path ahead—health, economic and social