

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: 'Nicola Lambrechts'; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: Rolling list: Interview/Q's re variant

I was able to politely/firmly decline some requests today but these five are outstanding. ^{s.13}
^{s.13}

If there are any recommended responses that are G2G with your input, am happy to send through, notably the TC.
And with that, I shall leave you in peace, Dr. H 😊

Reporter

Steve Zhang, Reporter
CBC - Vancouver
steve.zhang@cbc.ca
604-662-6463 c: ^{s.22}

Deadline TUESDAY, Dec 29 8:20am

Request I'm reaching out to see if Dr. Bonnie Henry is available for an interview with CBC on Tuesday, December 29th on our morning show, The Early Edition, regarding BC's first confirmed case of the COVID-19 strain found in the UK. I understand there really isn't much doctors and scientists know about it yet, other than it likely spreads more quickly. We're hoping she can give our listeners a briefing on what we do know and what steps we should take to stay safe. We have 8:10 or 8:20 available for you guys.

Please let me know if you're free to join us on the show. I can be reached by email or by phone at ^{s.22}

Recommendation: accept interview, 5-7minutes at 8:10 or 8:20am if free in Dr.H calendar

Reporter

Katie DeRosa, Reporter
Times Colonist
kderosa@timescolonist.com
250-380-5343 c: ^{s.22}

Deadline Sunday, December 27, 2020 6:00 PM

Request

Reporter would like to talk to a local medical representative about the first variant case, what exactly is meant by "close contacts" while quarantining ie whether those were people in the person's household, in a cab, at a grocery store, and also speak to the potential risk for transmission in this case

Recommendation: decline interview, provide brief statement:

While we are unable to comment on that level of detail because of patient privacy, generally, close contacts could be, for example, members of the individual's household or core bubble. I can confirm that a very small number of close contacts are isolating; public health officials are following up with them on a daily basis; and any passengers on a domestic flight with a confirmed COVID-19 case should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

We are hopeful that this case was caught in time to prevent spread to other people in the community, but we do expect to see more cases of this variant in B.C. in the coming weeks, just as other jurisdictions are seeing. That's why it's more important than ever for British Columbians to stay local, avoid all non-essential travel and use our layers of protection to reduce the potential for a surge in new cases and keep our communities and loved ones safe.

Reporter

Nicholas Pescod, Editor
CHEK TV - Victoria

Deadline Sunday, December 27, 2020 3:30 PM

Request

1. Where is the case located on the island
2. Was the person also on the flight from Vancouver to Nanaimo that had a case on-board?
3. If the flight was on the 19th, why did it take until the 27th for the public to be notified?
4. Why did the BCCDC do the testing as opposed to VIHA?
5. Does general COVID-19 testing include testing for the new strain or is it only limited to people who have recently travelled?
6. Can you comment on whether the new vaccines are effective against the variant?

Recommendation provide on background:

While we are unable to comment on that level of detail because of patient privacy, I can confirm that a small number of close contacts are isolating; public health officials are following up with them on a daily basis; and any passengers on a domestic flight with a confirmed COVID-19 case should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days. I can also confirm that the variant strain was detected by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Public Health Laboratory in its review of all isolates from people who had recently returned from travel to the U.K. Whole genome sequencing at the BCCDC identified this as the same as the variant seen in the U.K. and that process takes more time.

There is no evidence to suggest the Health Canada-approved vaccines will be any less effective against the new variant.

Reporter

Marieke Walsh, Reporter

Globe and Mail - Ottawa

mwalsh@globeandmail.com

Deadline Sunday, December 27, 2020 6:30 PM

Request

Can you please tell me if the person was following quarantine rules? And if they were why did they have a "small number" of close contacts? My deadline is 8 om ET

Recommendation

While we are unable to comment on that level of detail because of patient privacy, I can confirm that a very small number of close contacts are isolating; public health officials are following up with them on a daily basis; and any passengers on a domestic flight with a confirmed COVID-19 case should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Generally, close contacts could be, for example, members of an individual's household or core bubble.

Reporter

Mick Sweetman, Reporter

CHLY Radio - Nanaimo

mick.sweetman@chly.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

Reporter would like confirmation that the person was also on flight AC8265 to Nanaimo, and what is BC doing to protect people from those travelling internationally.

Recommendation: provide on background:

While we are unable to comment on that level of detail because of patient privacy, I can confirm that a small number of close contacts are isolating; public health officials are following up with them on a daily basis; and any passengers on a domestic flight with a confirmed COVID-19 case should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC] <Danuta.Skowronski@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 3:00 PM
To: XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN; Prystajecky, Natalie [BCCDC]; XT:Naus, Monika HLTH:IN; XT:HLTH Galanis, Eleni
Subject: Fwd: Canada IHR Notification (Article 6, IHR): Detection of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 UK variant in Canada

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FYI, have the B.C. cases been notified to PHAC and also as per IHR obligation?

IHR notice from Ontario included here.

Best wishes,
Danuta Skowronski MD, FRCPC
Epidemiology Lead, Influenza & Emerging Respiratory Pathogens
BC Centre for Disease Control
Ph: 604-707-2511

Begin forwarded message:

From: "HPOC-COPS, PHAC-ASPC (PHAC/ASPC)"
Date: December 27, 2020 at 2:33:14 PM PST
To: "alexander.skinner@international.gc.ca", "Champion, Margaret (PS/SP)", DFHP-DPSF, Dominique Tremblay, Elaine Barrett-Cramer, "Ellis, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA)", GAC OC, "GOC / COG (PS/SP)", Medical Intelligence, "NEOC / CNOU (CFIA/ACIA)", "Peter Lavallee (TC)", "Shankar, Craig (PHAC/ASPC)", SITCEN, "TC.EMplanning-planificationGU.TC", Vincent Beswick-Escanlar, "Admin: Tiffany Heindl", "André Corriveau (ACorriveau@gov.nu.ca)", "Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]", "Patrick, David [BCCDC]", "Galanis, Eleni [BCCDC]", "HGMORRISON@gov.pe.ca [EXT]", Jason Letto, Jim MacDougall, Kristin Klein, Marguerite Fenske, Michael Patterson, Michel Savard, "Naus, Monika [BCCDC]", NB CDC, NS HEOC, ON HEMD, "shelley.landsburg@gnb.ca [EXT]", Tim Macaulay, Barbara Yaffe, "Henry, Bonnie [EXT]", "Hanley, Brendan [EXT]", Brent Roussin, Brian Emerson, "Elliott, Catherine [EXT]", "Muecke, Cristin (Ext.)", David Williams, Deena Hinshaw, "Dr. Denise Werker", "Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC)", George Giovinazza, "horacio.arruda@msss.gouv.qc.ca [EXT]", James Worthington, Janice Fitzgerald, "Russell, Jennifer (Ext.)", "Kami_kandola@gov.nt.ca [EXT]", "Seeds, Laura (Ext.)", "Lavoie, Martin", "Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC)", Pierre Morissette, "Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]", Robert Strang, "saqib.shahab@health.gov.sk.ca [EXT]", "McDonald, Shannon [EXT]", "Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC)", SK CMOH, Suzanne Fedorowich, "Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC)", "Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC)", YK Surveillance, Yves Jalbert
Subject: FW: Canada IHR Notification (Article 6, IHR): Detection of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 UK variant in Canada

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Health Portfolio Operations Centre, Public Health Agency of Canada

Centre des opérations du portefeuille de la santé, Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Tel/Tél : 613-952-7940

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From: HPOC-COPS, PHAC-ASPC (PHAC/ASPC)

Sent: 2020-12-27 4:13 PM

To: 'ihr@paho.org'

Subject: Canada IHR Notification (Article 6, IHR): Detection of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 UK variant in Canada

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Regards | Sincères salutations

Health Portfolio Operations Centre, Public Health Agency of Canada

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Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: HPOC-COPS, PHAC-ASPC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac-aspc.hpoc-cops@canada.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 2:33 PM
To: alexander.skinner@international.gc.ca; Champion, Margaret (PS/SP); DFHP-DPSF; Dominique Tremblay; Elaine Barrett-Cramer; Ellis, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA); GAC OC; GOC / COG (PS/SP); Medical Intelligence; NEOC / CNOU (CFIA/ACIA); Peter Lavallee (TC); Shankar, Craig (PHAC/ASPC); SITCEN; TC.EMplanning-planificationGU.TC; Vincent Beswick-Escanlar; Admin: Tiffany Heindl; André Corriveau (ACorriveau@gov.nu.ca); Danuta Skowronski; XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN; XT:HLTH Galanis, Eleni; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Jason Letto; Jim MacDougall; Kristin Klein; Marguerite Fenske; Michael Patterson; Michel Savard; XT:Naus, Monika HLTH:IN; NB CDC; NS HEOC; ON HEMD; Shelly Landsburg; Tim Macaulay; Barbara Yaffe; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Brent Roussin; Brian Emerson; Catherine Elliott; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.); David Williams; Deena Hinshaw; Dr. Denise Werker; Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC); George Giovinazza; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); James Worthington; Janice Fitzgerald; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Kandola, Kami (Ext.); Seeds, Laura (Ext.); Lavoie, Martin HLTH:EX; Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Pierre Morissette; Reka Gustafson; Robert Strang; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); XT:McDonald, Shannon HLTH:IN; Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC); SK CMOH; Suzanne Fedorowich; Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC); YK Surveillance; Yves Jalbert
Subject: FW: Canada IHR Notification (Article 6, IHR): Detection of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 UK variant in Canada

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From: HPOC-COPS, PHAC-ASPC (PHAC/ASPC)

Sent: 2020-12-27 4:13 PM

To: 'ihr@paho.org'

Subject: Canada IHR Notification (Article 6, IHR): Detection of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 UK variant in Canada

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Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Patrick, David [BCCDC] <David.Patrick@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Covid [BCCDC]
Cc: Brent Friesen; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN
Subject: Re: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

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Hi, Jin:

We should make a preemptive request for the Air France manifest for those seated adjacent to the AB case if his source of infection is likely to be UK^{s.22}

It will take a bit of time to come in but this will put us in a stronger position to act if there is evidence of the UK variant.

Will also give me time to confirm with Bonnie if she wants us to act in general on cases like these for the time being.

David M. Patrick, MD, FRCPC, MHSc
Director of Research and Medical Epidemiology Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance, BCCDC
Professor, UBC School of Population and Public Health

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work
on the unceded territory of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm,
Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh
Nations.

From: Hur, Jin [CWBC] on behalf of Covid [BCCDC]
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Patrick, David [BCCDC]
Cc: Covid [BCCDC]
Subject: FW: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

Dr. Patrick,
Please see the e-mail below, sent by Dr. Friesen.
Thank you,
Jin Hur, RN
Public Health Nurse
COVID19 Response Team
BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority
655 West 12th Avenue

From: Brent Friesen

Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 12:53 PM

To: IJN / NIJ (PHAC/ASPC) ; Covid [BCCDC]

Subject: RE: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

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Thanks Carlyn

My request is just for the Air Canada flight. I am including BC CDC on this email so that they are aware of an Alberta case being linked to an outbreak^{s.22} involving UK residents to see if they wish to have the manifest for the flight arriving in BC. I would defer to them if they would like the manifest for Air France 0074. I checked with Alberta Provincial laboratory and they have not started genetic analysis of this traveler infection so we have no indication of whether there is any evidence of the UK variant. There is only the history of the case's linkage to an outbreak^{s.22}

^{s.22} The case's symptom onset was ^{s.22} and the dates of the flights were on ^{s.22}

^{s.22}

Regards

Brent Friesen

^{s.16}

From: Matz, Carlyn (HC/SC) <carlyn.matz@canada.ca> **On Behalf Of** IJN / NIJ (PHAC/ASPC)

Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 1:40 PM

To: Brent Friesen <Brent.Friesen@albertahealthservices.ca>

Cc: IJN / NIJ (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ijn-nij.aspc@canada.ca>

Subject: RE: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

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Hi Brent –

For clarification, is the interest still only in the Air Canada flight? The request below does not specify. Please advise.

Carlyn

Carlyn Matz, PhD

Health Portfolio Operations Centre

Public Health Agency of Canada

Address: 100 Colonnade Road

Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA, K1A 0K9

Tel: 00 +: 1-343-542-2916

Fax: 00 + 1.613.952.4723

Email: phac.ijn-nij.aspc@canada.ca

From: Brent Friesen <Brent.Friesen@albertahealthservices.ca>

Sent: 2020-12-27 3:32 PM

To: Emergency Response <emergency.response@aircanada.ca>; Annie Prasnjak <annie.prasnjak@aircanada.ca>; IJN / NIJ (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ijn-nij.aspc@canada.ca>

Cc: Health CD M <health.cd@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: RE: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

--*-*-*-*-*-*

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--*-*-*-*-*

Thank you for confirming the individual traveled and the row information. I would like to request the passenger manifest with passenger details including name address contact information such as phone and email for the individuals in the affected rows. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Regards

Brent Friesen MD FRCPC

Medical Officer of Health on Call for Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health Alberta

Cell^{s.16}

Pager^{s.16}

From: Emergency Response <emergency.response@aircanada.ca>

Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 9:48 AM

To: Brent Friesen <Brent.Friesen@albertahealthservices.ca>; Emergency Response

<emergency.response@aircanada.ca>; Annie Prasnjak <annie.prasnjak@aircanada.ca>; IJN / NIJ (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ijn-nij.aspc@canada.ca>

Cc: Health CD M <health.cd@gov.ab.ca>

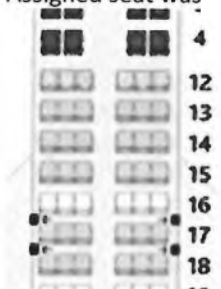
Subject: RE: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

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Good morning Brent,

We can confirm the individual in question travelled on AC214, 19DEC2020.

Assigned seat was^{s.22} affected rows are 12 to 16 (there is a bulkhead curtain, ahead of row 12):



Be well and stay safe,

Robert



AIR CANADA

Robert Stinziani

Chef – Assistance spéciale

Special Assistance Manager

730 boulevard de la Côte-Vertu Ouest

Dorval (Québec) H4S 1Y9

T 514 422-6484

robert.stinziani@aircanada.ca



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[Facebook.com/aircanada](https://facebook.com/aircanada)



From: Brent Friesen <Brent.Friesen@albertahealthservices.ca>

Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2020 11:15 PM

To: Emergency Response <emergency.response@aircanada.ca>; Annie Prasnjak <annie.prasnjak@aircanada.ca>; IJN / NIJ (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ijn-nij.aspc@canada.ca>

Cc: Health CD M <health.cd@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: RE: Notification of COVID Positive Passenger on Air France 771; Air France 0074 and Air Canada 0214 Dec 19, 2020

Importance: High

--*-*-*-*-*-*

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--*-*-*-*-*-*

-
-

Alberta Health has been advised of a COVID positive passenger who was infectious while traveling from France to Calgary. Passenger has contacted and informed Air Canada. Air France was also contacted but indicated that they needed to be informed by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is requested to follow up with Air France.

Password for encrypted document is to follow in separate email.

Regards

Brent Friesen MD FRCPC

Medical Officer of Health On Call for Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health

Cell ^{s.16}

Pager ^{s.16}

Dr. Brent T Friesen MD FRCPC

Medical Officer of Health Commercial Tobacco Non-medical Cannabis Program

Medical Director Accreditation Alberta Health Services

10301 Southport Lane SW

Calgary, Alberta, T2W 1S7

Direct: 403 943 1279 Fax 403 943 0200 Cell ^{s.16}

Assistant: Sandy.Blass@ahs.ca 403 943 0206

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Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Allison, Sandra (Dr) <Sandra.Allison@VIHA.CA>
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: XT:Braman, Jamie HLTH:IN; Benusic, Michael; XT:HLTH Stanwick, Richard; XT:Cadieux, Shawna X GCPE:IN; XT:HLTH Enns, Charmaine Dr.
Subject: RE: Embargoed Media statement today

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Hi, Bonnie,
Thank you for taking my phone call.
Immediately upon receipt of the clarification sentence below, I called immediately to clarify.

Dr. Benusic was made aware of the UK variant case and was notified by the BCCDC team yesterday. Given the release and identification of a spokesperson, Michael identified VIHA case^{s.22} for my review.

s.13

These flights were flagged by our investigation team as flights that carried an infectious case.
BCCDC does have these flights listed at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>
Including the affected rows as related to our passenger case.

Is there additional steps we need to ensure that BCCDC has taken with regard to the passengers on these flights? A more active notification process than the passive public notice process.
I am admittedly unfamiliar with all steps the BCCDC will undertake for routine flight exposures, not to mention what might be taken in this new extraordinary circumstance.

All my best,
Sandy

From: Cadieux, Shawna
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Benusic, Michael ; Allison, Sandra (Dr)
Cc: McKay, Valerie ; Abassi, Dominic ; Braman, Jamie
Subject: RE: Embargoed Media statement today

PS – my MOH communications colleague just responded to Jamie's note below:

s.13

From: Cadieux, Shawna
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Benusic, Michael <Michael.Benusic@VIHA.CA>; Allison, Sandra (Dr) <Sandra.Allison@VIHA.CA>
Cc: McKay, Valerie <Valerie.Mckay@VIHA.CA>; Abassi, Dominic <Dominic.Abassi@VIHA.CA>; Braman, Jamie <Jamie.Braman@VIHA.CA>
Subject: FW: Embargoed Media statement today
Importance: High

Hi Sandra and Mike – attaching the draft materials from MOH communications.
s.13; s.22

s.22 ? Please advise –thank you!

From: Braman, Jamie <Jamie.Braman@VIHA.CA>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cadieux, Shawna <Shawna.Cadieux@VIHA.CA>; McKay, Valerie <Valerie.Mckay@VIHA.CA>; Abassi, Dominic <Dominic.Abassi@VIHA.CA>
Subject: Re: Embargoed until 1pm today: Media statement today

s.13; s.22

s.13; s.22

. The privacy

issue has been canvassed many times and we report out hsda and lha level frequently.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 27, 2020, at 11:59 AM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good flag, I didn't realise the individual was a ^{s.22} and that ^{s.22} arrived via ^{s.22}. Will add to QA!

From: Braman, Jamie <Jamie.Braman@VIHA.CA>
Sent: December 27, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Cadieux, Shawna X GCPE:IN <shawna.cadieux@viha.ca>
Cc: XT:Wilson, Valerie HLTH:IN <Valerie.McKay@viha.ca>; XT:Abassi, Dominic GPCE:IN <Dominic.Abassi@viha.ca>
Subject: RE: Embargoed until 1pm today: Media statement today

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

The individual had to get from Vancouver to Vancouver Island – either by car, flight or ferry. The media will most likely ask the question and we will need an answer to that question.

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Cadieux, Shawna <Shawna.Cadieux@VIHA.CA>
Cc: Braman, Jamie <Jamie.Braman@VIHA.CA>; McKay, Valerie <Valerie.Mckay@VIHA.CA>; Abassi, Dominic <Dominic.Abassi@VIHA.CA>
Subject: RE: Embargoed until 1pm today: Media statement today

From: Cadieux, Shawna <Shawna.Cadieux@VIHA.CA>
Sent: December 27, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: XT:Braman, Jamie HLTH:IN <Jamie.Braman@viha.ca>; XT:Wilson, Valerie HLTH:IN <Valerie.McKay@viha.ca>; XT:Abassi, Dominic GPCE:IN <Dominic.Abassi@viha.ca>
Subject: RE: Embargoed until 1pm today: Media statement today
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Kirsten, I am curious about something – the statement says “Out of an abundance of caution, contact tracers are contacting those seated around the individual on the December 15 flight from Heathrow to Vancouver.”

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Cadieux, Shawna <Shawna.Cadieux@VIHA.CA>
Subject: Embargoed until 1pm today: Media statement today

No problem, both still considered draft but PHO/MO has provided input.
I'll tee this up to go out at 1pm with out editors, Dr. H will speak one on one to media between 1:30 and 2pm, after which if there is a need/desire, we would love to have Dr. S on stand-by, just in case.

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX; Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: FINAL - Fw: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.
Attachments: 2020HLTH0068-002147.pdf

Final going now. Thanks for the call, DBH.
Alex will send the link asap.

From: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Cc: Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX ; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX ; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX
Subject: FINAL - Fw: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

Thanks Kirsten,

Here's your final, going asap!

Oriane

s.17

From: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX <Oriane.Fort@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX
Subject: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/23507>

News ID: NEWS-23507

NR Number: 2020HLTH0068-002147

NR Type: Joint Statement

State: Planned

Planned Release Date: December 27, 2020 at 1:15 pm

Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, 000.1 - Burnaby, 000.2 - Vancouver, 049.0 - Okanagan Falls, 064.0 - Richmond, 076.0 - Surrey, BUSIN_BUSINESS, CCCH_CHINESE, CCFR_FRENCH, CCID_INDIGENOUS, CCPE_PERSIAN, CCSA_SOUTH ASIAN, COVID,

Lead Organization: Ministry of Health

Headline: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release

2020HLTH0068-002147

Dec. 27, 2020

Ministry of Health

Office of the Provincial Health Officer

JOINT STATEMENT

Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

VICTORIA - Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer (PHO), and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, have issued the following joint statement announcing the first confirmed case of a person in British Columbia infected with the COVID-19 variant first identified in the United Kingdom:

"B.C. has identified the first case of a person in B.C. infected with the COVID-19 U.K. variant. The individual, who resides in the Island Health region, returned to B.C. from the U.K. on flight AC855 on Dec. 15, 2020, developed symptoms while in quarantine and was immediately tested. Testing confirmed the positive diagnosis on Dec. 19, 2020; a small number of close contacts have been isolated and public health is following up with them daily.

"The variant strain was detected by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Public Health Laboratory in its review of all isolates from people who had recently returned from travel to the U.K. Whole genome sequencing at the BCCDC identified this as the same as the variant seen in the U.K. Ongoing review may identify additional cases in the coming days.

"B.C. continues to support the Canada-wide travel ban on all flights arriving from the U.K. until Jan. 6, 2021, and urges all British Columbians to continue to avoid all non-essential travel to keep people and communities safe.

"It is important to note there is no evidence that the new COVID-19 variant is more likely to cause severe illness, nor is there evidence to suggest the Health Canada-approved vaccines will be any less effective against the new variant.

"However, studies suggest the COVID-19 variant first identified in the U.K. can spread more quickly and easily, which is why British Columbians everywhere must continue to be cautious and follow all PHO orders and guidelines, stay close to home, avoid non-essential travel, practice safe, physical distancing and wear a mask when in public indoor spaces.

"All British Columbians have to remember the virus spreads quickly but shows up slowly. By staying local, avoiding all non-essential travel and using our layers of protection, we can reduce the potential for a surge in new cases and keep our communities and loved ones safe."

Learn More:

For updated PHO orders and new guidance:

For details on new restrictions, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

For updated PHO orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Find out where to get tested:

If you are experiencing symptoms, find a collection centre near you to get tested: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases->

[conditions/covid-19/testing](#)

For mental health, anxiety and other supports:

For mental health and anxiety support, visit: www.bouncebackbc.ca

Or: www.anxietycanada.com

Or visit the BCCDC for further supports: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/mental-well-being-during-covid-19>

For more information on overdoses, visit: <https://www.stopoverdose.gov.bc.ca>

People in BC experiencing violence can access VictimLink, a toll-free, confidential multilingual service available 24/7 by calling or texting 1 800 563-0808 or emailing: VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca (<mailto:VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca>)

For non-health related information, including financial, child care and education supports, travel, transportation and essential service information, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19

Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time), seven days a week.

COVID-19 exposure events, updates and information by health authority:

BCCDC (flights, work sites, etc.): <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

Fraser Health: fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure

Interior Health: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/public-exposures/>

Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Vancouver Coastal: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

Or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter.

For the latest videos and livestreaming of COVID-19 media availabilities, visit:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC

Contact:

COVID-19 Communications

Ministry of Health

(250) 858-0555

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/connect>

JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0068-002147
Dec. 27, 2020

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

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For updated PHO orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

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Or: www.anxietycanada.com

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Fraser Health: fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure

Interior Health: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/public-exposures/>

Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Vancouver Coastal: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

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Or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter.

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC

Contact:

COVID-19 Communications

Ministry of Health

(250) 858-0555

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

Subject: Canceled: Weekend Rounds: UK Variant
Location: By WebEx- meeting link to follow

Start: Sun 2020-12-27 8:00 AM
End: Sun 2020-12-27 9:00 AM
Show Time As: Free

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC)

Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Removing this placeholder- final meeting invite sent by CCMOH Secretariat with the WebEx video link.

SAC Secretariat

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: HPOC-COPS, PHAC-ASPC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac-aspc.hpoc-cops@canada.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 4:17 AM
Subject: WHO EIS Posting - Public Health Event Update: United Kingdom Influenza due to identified avian or animal influenza virus
Attachments: Event Update 2020-12-26 UK.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

DL 3 - Releasable to Authorized Organizations and Key Decision-Makers

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This report is for official use only and is not for public dissemination. Recipients may distribute it at their discretion, for operational purposes, to relevant public health officials in Canada.

Health Portfolio Operations Centre Notification

From: World Health Organization (WHO)

Please find attached International Health Regulations (IHR) related information which was posted to the WHO's secure Event Information Site (EIS) for IHR National Focal Points. Please note that this information is being provided for operational purposes only and does not include a Canadian-based risk assessment.

Overview:

- On 14 December 2020, authorities of the United Kingdom reported that a SARS-CoV-2 variant had been identified through viral genomic sequencing in the United Kingdom, including in 1108 individuals (as of 13 December 2020) in the United Kingdom.
- This variant is referred to in the United Kingdom as SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 (Variant of Concern, year 2020, month 12, variant 01) and was previously known as SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01 (Variant Under Investigation).
- Following retrospective analysis conducted in December this year, cases of VOC 202012/01 were identified dating back to September, with a rapid increase in cases reported in November in the United Kingdom.

Further details are available in the attached PDF.

The IHR National Focal Point Office of Canada will continue to monitor and communicate any new developments.

Regards | Sincères salutations

Health Portfolio Operations Centre, Public Health Agency of Canada
Centre des opérations du portefeuille de la santé, Agence de la santé publique du Canada
Tel/Tél : 613-952-7940

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Avis de confidentialité: Le présent courriel et les pièces qui y sont jointes peuvent contenir des renseignements confidentiels ou privilégiés destinés uniquement aux personnes désignées. Si vous n'êtes pas le destinataire visé, ou une personne autorisée à recevoir sa correspondance, vous êtes par la présente avisé que cette communication vous a été transmise par erreur et qu'il est interdit d'en prendre connaissance, d'en divulguer le contenu, de la distribuer et de la reproduire en tout ou en partie. Si vous avez reçu le présent courriel par erreur, veuillez détruire toutes ses copies et tout dossier joint et communiquer avec l'expéditeur par courriel ou par téléphone, au 613-952-7940.

Page 26 of 84 to/à Page 28 of 84

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 26, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: For PHO/MO Review: HLTH Media Request: COVID 19 - UK variant

Great, thank you! I'll send at 5 unless MO has changes. Thanks all.

Kirsten Youngs
COVID Communications
250 858-0555

On Dec 26, 2020, at 4:36 PM, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX wrote:

Thanks, that looks good to me.
B

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
250 952-1330

On Dec 26, 2020, at 4:15 PM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX wrote:

Will connect with Tessa tomorrow ahead of the statement release but for tonight, any suggestions to the below holding message?

Reporter

Tessa Vikander, Freelancer
CTV - Vancouver
tessa.vikander@bellmedia.ca

s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request

Given the news that two cases of the UK variant of COVID-19 have been found in Ontario, will B.C. be adding any restrictions to flights coming in from Ontario? Will B.C. be changing any of its prevention measures? Adding in

new restrictions? What do the Ontario cases mean for B.C.?

Recommendation: provide on background

We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in BC travellers that potentially came from the U.K.

Genetic analysis is being performed to identify if there have been previous or new cases associated with this variant.

The new strain only emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now, especially as we are rolling out our immunization program for the most vulnerable people in BC, including many frontline health care workers.

We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajacky@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 26, 2020 2:01 PM
To: XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN
Cc: XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth; Benusic, Michael [VIHA]
Subject: Re: Possible UK variant

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

PW: COVID-19

From: Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC]
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Patrick, David [BCCDC]
Cc: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]; Benusic, Michael [VIHA]
Subject: Re: Possible UK variant

Hi All

Please find attached the sequencing report on the VIHA case. I will send a password in a subsequent email.

Let me know if you have any questions - can always reach me on my cell as well.

Natalie

Natalie Prystajacky, PhD SCCM

s.17

From: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Patrick, David [BCCDC]; Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC]
Cc: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]; Benusic, Michael [VIHA]
Subject: Re: Possible UK variant

Thanks Bonnie, we have confirmed that the person who^{s.22} arrived from the UK on Dec 15 via Heathrow does indeed have all 17 of the mutations consistent with the B.1.1.7 lineage.

I called Dee Hoyano as she had ordered the WGS to be performed. According to our records in PLOVER the sample was collected on Dec 19th and we received it on the 22 of Dec. The Ct values are 30 for both the RDRP and E gene targets.

Natalie, will create an official report shortly without identifiers.

I suggested that all of^{s.22} contacts be tested even if asymptomatic.

Mel

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajacky@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 26, 2020 2:01 PM
To: XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN
Cc: XT:HLTH Brodtkin, Elizabeth; Benusic, Michael [VIHA]
Subject: Re: Possible UK variant
Attachments: WGS_SUMMARY_REPORT_Rapid Report_UK Traveller_26Dec2020 for VIHA deID.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi All

Please find attached the sequencing report on the VIHA case. I will send a password in a subsequent email.

Let me know if you have any questions - can always reach me on my cell as well.

Natalie

Natalie Prystajacky, PhD SCCM

s.17

From: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Patrick, David [BCCDC]; Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC]
Cc: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]; Benusic, Michael [VIHA]
Subject: Re: Possible UK variant

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Natalie, will create an official report shortly without identifiers.

I suggested that all of^{s.22} contacts be tested even if asymptomatic.

Mel

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 26, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Patrick, David [BCCDC]; Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC]; Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]
Cc: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH]; Benusic, Michael [VIHA]
Subject: RE: Possible UK variant

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and do not open attachments or click on links.

Thanks, all.

We are looking at making a public statement tomorrow about the case(s) in BC so details of the quarantines and when sys developed, contacts etc. will be needed. I would appreciate if you can send me a synopsis when you get all that.

Happy to set up a call if that is easier.

Thanks,

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9P4 Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 952-1330

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

-----Original Message-----

From: Patrick, David [BCCDC] <David.Patrick@bccdc.ca>

Sent: December 25, 2020 9:43 PM

To: Prystajecky, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajecky@bccdc.ca>; XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN <mel.krajden@bccdc.ca>

Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Brownrigg, Bobbi [BCCDC] <Bobbi.Brownrigg@bccdc.ca>;

Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC] <Danuta.Skowronski@bccdc.ca>;

Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC] <Danuta.Skowronski@bccdc.ca>

Subject: Re: Possible UK variant

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks:

Thought I had replied but don't see it in sent mail so doing so again:

Tomorrow, will:

- FU with VIHA on this person who traveled Dec 15
- touch bases with Bonnie to assure a heads up for any related comms as this is a variant straining
- check in with Deena and PHAC on the manifest from Dec 19

- Mel confirms that the first patient diagnosed from flight 855 on that date is a BC resident but no specimen on hand here so likely diagnosed based on tests elsewhere
- The recently diagnosed case resident of AB will have more sequencing done and we will gather the manifest for adjacent passengers out of an abundance of caution

Going to crash now and will get at this early tomorrow as the teams come on line.

David M. Patrick, MD, FRCPC, MHSc

Director of Research and Medical Epidemiology Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance, BCCDC Professor, UBC School of Population and Public Health

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded territory of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwiltulh Nations.

From: Prystajecky, Natalie [BCCDC]

Sent: December 25, 2020 9:25 PM

To: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]

Cc: Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Patrick, David [BCCDC]; Brownrigg, Bobbi [BCCDC]; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]

Subject: Re: Possible UK variant

To add one more detail

This case falls in the B.1.1.7 lineage. First of this lineage observed in BC; same as the UK variant.

Natalie Prystajecky, PhD SCCM

BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Laboratory

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 25, 2020, at 9:11 PM, Krajden, Mel [BCCDC] <Mel.Krajden@bccdc.ca> wrote:

>

> Bonnie and David,

>

> Flight: AC855 (London Heathrow to Vancouver) on 2020-12-15

>

> ^{s.22}

sample sequenced today and reviewed this evening.

>

> The strain has 13/17 mutations including the 501, 69-70 deletion and the 144 deletion. We have never seen this sequence in BC before. It is a high quality sequence with 99.6% coverage and 540x depth.

>

> Mel

>

>

> From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

> Sent: December 25, 2020 8:45 PM

> To: Patrick, David [BCCDC]

> Cc: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]; Brownrigg, Bobbi [BCCDC]; Gustafson, Reka

> [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]
 > Subject: Re: Possible UK variant
 >
 > EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and do not open attachments or click on links.
 > -----
 > -----
 >
 >
 > Thanks David,
 > That sounds reasonable. Delaying as much as we can is a good aim.
 > Let me know if there are concerns about being able to trace people.
 > s.22
 > B
 >
 > Dr Bonnie Henry
 > Provincial Health Officer
 > Ministry of Health
 > Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
 > 250 952-1330
 >
 > On Dec 25, 2020, at 8:21 PM, Patrick, David [BCCDC] <David.Patrick@bccdc.ca> wrote:
 >
 >
 >
 > [EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.
 >
 >
 > Merry Christmas:
 >
 >
 > I've been on a call with Deena Henshaw, Howard Ngu and others.
 >
 >
 > Cogent details:
 >
 >
 > * Passenger flew Heathrow to YVR and then on to Edmonton^{s.22}
 > * Asymptomatic in flight but developed symptoms^{s.22} tested positive and limited sequencing shows 2 mutations compatible with UK variant
 > * Complete sequencing will probably not be available before the 27th, but the two observed mutations are not common among Canadian strains
 > * Currently in isolation in AB
 > * Of interest, the long-haul flight is already posted because of another passenger testing positive between rows 4 and 8; PHAC will let us know which province reported THAT case, but it will be a priority for sequencing
 > * Discussion focused on management of other passengers in the context of a public health objective of containing the UK variant:
 > * flight posting to be updated to include rows adjacent to this passenger (details below)
 > * there was a consensus that we should act out of an abundance of caution, obtain the manifest and make sure the adjacent passengers^{s.13} are monitoring symptoms at a minimum

- > * importantly, since we do not know this is UK variant for certain, messaging to contacts for now should be that we are being careful around case originating from UK
- > * AB will work with PHAC, request manifests and share with us
- > * I will need help from Bobbi's response team in the morning about making sure any BC resident contacts get called by health authority of residence once we have the list tomorrow
- > * everyone recognizes that this kind of action would not be sustainable if the variant were widely circulating, but assessed that this approach is best while we try to keep it out of circulation in Canada.

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> s.22

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>
> More in the morning.

>
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>
>
> David M. Patrick, MD, FRCPC, MHSc
> Director of Research and Medical Epidemiology Lead for Antimicrobial
> Resistance, BCCDC Professor, UBC School of Population and Public
> Health

>
> I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded
> territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and
> Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwítlh Nations.

>
> _____
> From: Deena Hinshaw <Deena.Hinshaw@gov.ab.ca>
> Sent: December 25, 2020 5:53 PM
> To: Patrick, David [BCCDC]
> Subject: FW: Possible UK variant

>
> EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and do not open attachments or click on links.

> _____
>
> As discussed. See below

>
> _____
>
> _____
> Dr. Deena Hinshaw
> Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services
> Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta Clinical
> Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming
> School of Medicine, University of Calgary 24th Floor, ATB Place North
> Tower
> 10025 Jasper Avenue | Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6

>
>
>
> Classification: Protected A
> From: Jing Hu <Jing.Hu@gov.ab.ca>
> Sent: Friday, December 25, 2020 6:41 PM

> To: Deena Hinshaw <Deena.Hinshaw@gov.ab.ca>; Marcia Johnson
 > <Marcia.Johnson@gov.ab.ca>; Brent Friesen
 > <Brent.Friesen@albertahealthservices.ca>; Andy Ridge
 > <Andy.Ridge@gov.ab.ca>; Bart Johnson <bart.johnson@gov.ab.ca>; Lorna
 > Rosen <Lorna.Rosen@gov.ab.ca>; Bryce Stewart
 > <bryce.stewart@gov.ab.ca>; Jessica Lucenko <Jessica.Lucenko@gov.ab.ca>
 > Cc: Allison Pfeifer <Allison.Pfeifer@gov.ab.ca>; Fiona Cavanagh
 > <Fiona.Cavanagh@gov.ab.ca>
 > Subject: Possible UK variant
 >
 >
 > Hello all,
 >
 >
 >
 > This is a summary of a possible UK variant identified from a person who recently travelled back from London, UK.
 >
 >
 >
 > Lab investigation: On partial sequencing of the spike protein gene from this patient's SARS-CoV-2 isolate, we identified
 2 mutations that have been characterized as part of the Variant of Concern 202012/01 (B.1.1.7) strain which has been
 recently reported from the United Kingdom. Given the epidemiologic link of travel from the United Kingdom, where
 this B.1.1.7 strain has been reported, this raises concern of an importation of this strain.
 >
 > Further testing is required to confirm if the patient's isolate is indeed this variant of concern. This will be conducted
 over the course of the next 72 hours to confirm whether the patient truly is infected with the B.1.1.7 strain. The
 extracted sample is being express couriered from Edmonton to Calgary ProVLab tonight.
 >
 >
 >
 > Public Health Investigation and Management:

s.22

>
> Assessment:
>
> Possible SARS-CoV-2 UK variant, limited risk of transmission
>
>
>
> Further actions:
>
> - More complete sequencing at Prov-Lab to confirm if the isolate is indeed the B.1.1.7 strain.
>
> - Coordinate with BC and PHAC on further public health action (such as whether to notify flight passengers) and public messaging
>
>
>
> Thank you.
>
>
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions.
>
>
>
> Jing
>
>
>
> _____
>
> Dr. Jing Hu
>
> Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health
>
> 24th Floor, ATB Place North Tower
>
> 10025 Jasper Avenue | Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6

>
> Office:^{s.16}
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Classification: Protected A
>
>
> Classification: Protected A

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC) <kerry.robinson@canada.ca> on behalf of CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>
Sent: December 26, 2020 1:28 PM
To: CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); 'Avis Gray'; 'Brent Roussin'; 'Catherine Elliott'; Simms, Colleen (Ext.); 'Colleen Stockley'; 'Dr. Barb Yaffe'; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.); 'Dr. David Williams'; 'Dr. Deena Hinshaw'; 'Dr. Denise Werker'; 'Dr. George Giovinazzo'; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); 'Dr. James Worthington'; 'Dr. Janice Fitzgerald'; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); 'Dr. Michael Patterson'; 'Dr. Robert Strang'; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC); Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC); Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC); XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN; 'Greg Haley'; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); Kandola, Kami (Ext.); 'Philip Christoff'; 'Reka Gustafson'; 'SK CMOH Single Window'; 'Suzanne Fedorowich'; 'Tami Denomie'; 'Trish Merrithew'; 'Vincent Beswick-Escanlar'; 'YK Surveillance'; 'Yves Jalbert'
Cc: Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC); 'Bailey Muir-Cressman'; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC); Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC); 'Carol Kurbis'; Carter, Luke (HC/SC); CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC); 'Cindy Kruger'; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.); 'Colleen Dudar'; Sabapathy, David (Ext.); David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC); Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC); 'Dawn Osciak'; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.); Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC); 'Diane Lu'; 'Donna Milne'; 'Elaine Barrett-Cramer'; Look, Elaine (Ext.); Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC); Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC); Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC); Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC); 'Gillian MacDonald'; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC); Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC); 'Heidi Liston'; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC); Hill, Allison (HC/SC); Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC); HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC); Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC); Sherren, Janice (Ext.); 'Jasmine Pawa'; 'Jazz Atwal'; 'Jennifer White'; 'Jocelyn LeBlond'; 'Johnatha Smith'; Follett, Juanita (Ext.); 'Karen Scherle'; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC); Dean, Kelly (Ext.); King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC); Seeds, Laura (Ext.); Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC); Lebans, Anne (PHAC/ASPC); Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC); Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC); XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.); MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC); MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC); 'Maureen Carew'; Maher, Maurica (Ext.); McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC); McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC); McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC); McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC); Conly, Meghan (HC/SC); Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.); Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC); 'NB Secretariat'; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC); Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); 'Pamela MacMillan'; 'Pat Seaman'; 'Penny Higdon'; Ponio, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); 'Rachel Comeau'; 'Rachel Mailhot'; Almond, Richard HLTH:EX; 'Richard Baydack'; Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Russo, Laura (HC/SC); Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC); Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC); Poirier, Samantha (Ext.); Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC); Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC); Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX; 'Sylvie Poirier'; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC); Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC); 'Teri Cole'; 'Tracey Aylward'; 'Vanessa Blyan'
Subject: For information: Ontario News Release
Attachments: UK Variant_NR_v13 FINAL.docx

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear SAC members,

Please find attached a news release from Ontario that went live this afternoon regarding case with the UK variant of SARS-CoV2.

Thank you,
SAC Secretariat

Ontario Confirms First Cases of COVID-19 UK Variant in Ontario
To Help Stop the Spread Ontario Entered Provincewide Shutdown Beginning today

NEWS

December 26, 2020

Copyright

MEDIA CONTACTS

Alexandra Hilkene
Minister Elliott's Office
alexandra.hilkene@ontario.ca

David Jensen
Communications Division
416-314-6197
media.moh@ontario.ca

ontario.ca/health-news

Disponible en français

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Patrick, David [BCCDC] <David.Patrick@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 25, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Subject: Fw: Possible UK variant

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Details in case you don't have them already.

David M. Patrick, MD, FRCPC, MHSc
Director of Research and Medical Epidemiology Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance, BCCDC
Professor, UBC School of Population and Public Health

I respectfully acknowledge that I live and work
on the unceded territory of the x̓m̓əθkwəy̓əm,
Skwxwú7mesh, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh
Nations.

From: Deena Hinshaw
Sent: December 25, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Patrick, David [BCCDC]
Subject: FW: Possible UK variant

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As discussed. See below

Dr. Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health
Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine,
University of Calgary
24th Floor, ATB Place North Tower
10025 Jasper Avenue | Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6
Classification: Protected A

From: Jing Hu
Sent: Friday, December 25, 2020 6:41 PM
To: Deena Hinshaw ; Marcia Johnson ; Brent Friesen ; Andy Ridge ; Bart Johnson ; Lorna Rosen ; Bryce Stewart ; Jessica Lucenko
Cc: Allison Pfeifer ; Fiona Cavanagh
Subject: Possible UK variant
Hello all,

This is a summary of a possible UK variant identified from a person who recently travelled back from London, UK.

Lab investigation: On partial sequencing of the spike protein gene from this patient's SARS-CoV-2 isolate, we identified 2 mutations that have been characterized as part of the Variant of Concern 202012/01 (B.1.1.7) strain which has been recently reported from the United Kingdom. Given the epidemiologic link of travel from the United Kingdom, where this B.1.1.7 strain has been reported, this raises concern of an importation of this strain.

Further testing is required to confirm if the patient's isolate is indeed this variant of concern. This will be conducted over the course of the next 72 hours to confirm whether the patient truly is infected with the B.1.1.7 strain. The extracted sample is being express couriered from Edmonton to Calgary ProvLab tonight.

Public Health Investigation and Management:

s.22

Assessment:

Possible SARS-CoV-2 UK variant, limited risk of transmission

Further actions:

- More complete sequencing at Prov-Lab to confirm if the isolate is indeed the B.1.1.7 strain.
- Coordinate with BC and PHAC on further public health action (such as whether to notify flight passengers) and public messaging

Thank you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Jing

Dr. Jing Hu
Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health
24th Floor, ATB Place North Tower
10025 Jasper Avenue | Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6

Office:

Classification: Protected A

Classification: Protected A

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Spowart, Michael (PHAC/ASPC) <michael.spowart@canada.ca>
Sent: December 25, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Reka Gustafson
Subject: Fwd: URGENT - Heads-up - Presumptive UK strain test result in AB

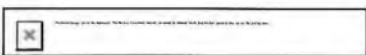
[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Bonnie...just a heads in case you haven't already heard from Deena.

MICHAEL SPOWART

Regional Director - Western Region (BC/Alberta)
Public Health Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
E-mail: michael.spowart@phac-aspc.gc.ca / Tel: (604) 666-7128

Directeur Régional - Région de l'ouest (CB/Alberta)
l'Agence de la Santé Publique du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Courriel: michael.spowart@phac-aspc.gc.ca / Tél: (604) 666-7128



Begin forwarded message:

From: <michael.spowart@canada.ca>
Date: December 25, 2020 at 4:00:52 PM PST
To: <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>
Cc: <guillaume.poliquin@canada.ca>, <iain.stewart@canada.ca>, <brigitte.diogo@canada.ca>, <luc.brisebois@canada.ca>
Subject: URGENT - Heads-up - Presumptive UK strain test result in AB

Hi Dr. Tam,

Heads-up, if you haven't heard from Deena Hinshaw yet, one of her MOHs gave us a heads up that they have presumptive positive uk strain result. He indicated she was getting briefed and then she would likely be calling you (they are thinking of Ministerial briefing and may invite you and B.C.) and he also indicated they would be contacting NML (not sure who there but copying Guillaume here) - they are asking us who from PHAC should be invited to their call.

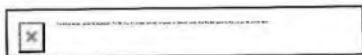
All we know right now is person came into YVR (connecting to Edmonton) from London Heathrow
s.22 . will follow-up with our contact there once they are finished briefing Deena.

Michael
s.16

MICHAEL SPOWART

Regional Director - Western Region (BC/Alberta)
Public Health Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
E-mail: michael.spowart@phac-aspc.gc.ca / Tel: (604) 666-7128

Directeur Régional - Région de l'ouest (CB/Alberta)
l'Agence de la Santé Publique du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Courriel: michael.spowart@phac-aspc.gc.ca / Tél: (604) 666-7128



Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC) <sonia.hamel@canada.ca> on behalf of CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>
Sent: December 24, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Avis Gray; Brent Roussin; Catherine Elliott; Simms, Colleen (Ext.); Colleen Stockley; Dr. Barb Yaffe; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.); Dr. David Williams; Dr. Deena Hinshaw; Dr. Denise Werker; Dr. George Giovinnazzo; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Dr. James Worthington; Dr. Janice Fitzgerald; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Dr. Michael Patterson; Dr. Robert Strang; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC); Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC); Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC); XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN; Greg Haley; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); Kandola, Kami (Ext.); Philip Christoff; Reka Gustafson; SK CMOH Single Window; Suzanne Fedorowich; Tami Denomie; Trish Merrithew; Vincent Beswick-Escanlar; YK Surveillance; Yves Jalbert
Cc: Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC); Bailey Muir-Cressman; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC); Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC); Carol Kurbis; Carter, Luke (HC/SC); CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC); Cindy Kruger; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.); Colleen Dudar; Sabapathy, David (Ext.); David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC); Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC); Dawn Osciak; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.); Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC); Diane Lu; Donna Milne; Elaine Barrett-Cramer; Look, Elaine (Ext.); Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC); Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC); Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC); Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC); Gillian MacDonald; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC); Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC); Heidi Liston; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC); Hill, Allison (HC/SC); Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC); HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC); Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC); Sherren, Janice (Ext.); Jasmine Pawa; Jazz Atwal; Jennifer White; Jocelyn LeBlond; Johnatha Smith; Follett, Juanita (Ext.); Karen Scherle; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC); Dean, Kelly (Ext.); King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC); Seeds, Laura (Ext.); Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC); Lebars, Anne (PHAC/ASPC); Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC); Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC); XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.); MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC); MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC); Maureen Carew; Maher, Maurica (Ext.); McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC); McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC); McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC); McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC); Conly, Meghan (HC/SC); Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.); Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC); NB Secretariat ; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC); Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Pamela MacMillan; Pat Seaman ; Penny Higdon; Ponik, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Rachel Comeau; Rachel Mailhot; Almond, Richard HLTH:EX; Richard Baydack; Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC); Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Russo, Laura (HC/SC); Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC); Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC); Poirier, Samantha (Ext.); Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC); Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC); Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX; Sylvie Poirier; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC); Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC); Teri Cole; Tracey Aylward; Vanessa Blyan
Subject: For your information: Link to the Public Health England Technical Report on their SARS-CoV2 variant

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear SAC members,

As a follow-up to the SAC teleconference today, we are sharing the link to the Public Health England Technical Report on their SARS-CoV2 variant.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947048/Technical_Briefing_VOC_SH_NJL2_SH2.pdf

Thank you
SAC Secretariat

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC) <julie.auger@canada.ca> on behalf of CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>

Sent: December 23, 2020 4:45 PM

To: Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Avis Gray; Brent Roussin; Catherine Elliott; Simms, Colleen (Ext.); Colleen Stockley; Dr. Barb Yaffe; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.); Dr. David Williams; Dr. Deena Hinshaw; Dr. Denise Werker; Dr. George Giovino; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Dr. James Worthington; Dr. Janice Fitzgerald; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Dr. Michael Patterson; Dr. Robert Strang; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC); Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC); Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC); XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN; Greg Haley; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); Kandola, Kami (Ext.); Philip Christoff; Reka Gustafson; SK CMOH Single Window; Suzanne Fedorowich; Tami Denomie; Trish Merrithew; Vincent Beswick-Escanlar; YK Surveillance; Yves Jalbert

Cc: CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC); Bailey Muir-Cressman; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC); Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC); Carol Kurbis; Carter, Luke (HC/SC); CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC); Cindy Kruger; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.); Colleen Dudar; Sabapathy, David (Ext.); David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC); Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC); Dawn Osciak; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.); Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC); Diane Lu; Donna Milne; Elaine Barrett-Cramer; Look, Elaine (Ext.); Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC); Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC); Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC); Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC); Gillian MacDonald; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC); Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC); Heidi Liston; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC); Hill, Allison (HC/SC); Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC); HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC); Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC); Sherren, Janice (Ext.); Jasmine Pawa; Jazz Atwal; Jennifer White; Jocelyn LeBlond; Johnatha Smith; Follett, Juanita (Ext.); Karen Scherle; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC); Dean, Kelly (Ext.); King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC); Seeds, Laura (Ext.); Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC); Lebans, Anne (PHAC/ASPC); Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC); Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC); XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.); MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC); MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC); Maureen Carew; Maher, Maurica (Ext.); McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC); McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC); McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC); McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC); Conly, Meghan (HC/SC); Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.); Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC); NB Secretariat ; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC); Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Pamela MacMillan; Pat Seaman ; Penny Higdon; Ponc, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Rachel Comeau; Rachel Mailhot; Almond, Richard HLTH:EX; Richard Baydack; Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC); Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Russo, Laura (HC/SC); Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC); Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC); Poirier, Samantha (Ext.); Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC); Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC); Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX; Sylvie Poirier; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC); Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC); Teri Cole; Tracey Aylward; Vanessa Blyan

Subject: Update on the prohibition of direct flights from the UK / Mise à jour sur l'interdiction des vols directs en provenance du Royaume Uni

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(le français suit)

Dear SAC members,

We are writing to inform you that, this evening, Transport Canada has extended the prohibition of direct flights to Canada from the United Kingdom until **January 6, 2021, at 11:59 PM EST.**

Chers membres du CSC,

Nous désirons vous informer que, ce soir, Transport Canada a confirmé l'extension de l'interdiction des vols directs en provenance du Royaume Uni jusqu'à **23h59 EST le 6 janvier 2021.**

Sincèrement,

Secrétariat du CSC

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX
Sent: December 23, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Subject: Fwd: New Variant / OiC Next Steps
Attachments: 4. Presentation to SAC-Border Measures Dec 22 - Dec 21 2030.pptx; GoC Term Sheet - UK Travel - December 2020 V3 CLEAN.docx; GoC Term Sheet - UK Travel - December 2020 V3_F1.docx

Have you seen this or the discussion at SAC? Any concerns with the approach?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Frison, Monique (HC/SC)"
Date: December 23, 2020 at 6:41:56 AM PST
To: "Scarth, Fredrika (MOH)" , francois.sanschagrin@msss.gouv.qc.ca, lucie.opatrny@msss.gouv.qc.ca, "Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX" , bart.johnson@gov.ab.ca
Cc: Bianca Brunet , "Kahn, Zoe (HC/SC)" , "Jeffrey, Heather (HC/SC)" , "Diogo, Brigitte (PHAC/ASPC)" , "Hashem Lee, Sophie (HC/SC)" , "Ramdhan, Monique (HC/SC)" , "Proulx, Zia (HC/SC)" , "McLarty, Timothy (HC/SC)" , "Hamzawi, Nancy (HC/SC)"
Subject: New Variant / OiC Next Steps

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Colleagues,

Following yesterday's border measures presentation at SAC specifically related the new variant strain of the COVID-19 identified in the U.K, I'd like to meet today to discuss the implementation of a potential new OiC under the Quarantine Act.

The attached term sheet sets out the basic issues and approaches to implementing the OIC as presented to SAC. I propose that we use our meeting today to review it. I understand Deputy Ministers are also meeting today when they may review this sheet and the issues raised in it. Once you have had a chance to review, I would be pleased to set bilateral calls with each of you to get a sense of the particular concerns or challenges in each province.

Many thanks,

Monique

Monique Frison

a/Assistant Deputy Minister / Sous-ministre adjointe p.i.

Programs and Implementation / Programmes et mise en œuvre

Testing, Contact Tracing and Data Management Secretariat

Secrétariat de dépistage, la recherche de contacts et la stratégie des données

Email/courriel : monique.frison@canada.ca

Cell. 613-355-8189

Health Canada / Santé Canada

Édifice Brooke Claxton Building, 70 prom. Colombine Driveway

Ottawa, ON, K1A 0K9



Health Canada and the Public
Health Agency of Canada

Santé Canada et l'Agence
de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

Update on Border Measures

Presentation to SAC

December 22, 2020



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Government of Canada Term Sheet – Designated Countries-Canada Travel

December 22, 2020

For Discussion Purposes with Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec only.

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Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX
Sent: December 21, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Subject: Fwd: YVR + UK Flights

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Trevor Boudreau
Date: December 21, 2020 at 1:05:25 PM PST
To: "van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX"
Cc: "Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX", "Parte, Maura HLTH:EX", Alana Lawrence
Subject: YVR + UK Flights

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Hi Amanda,

Further to our calls, confirming the following:

- Travel to Canada is restricted to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and very select foreign nationals that meet strict entry criteria (i.e. immediate family members of Canadian citizens, those needing to enter for compassionate reasons). [GoC entry criteria](#)
- YVR currently serves the UK with 3x weekly flight on Air Canada. The last inbound flight (AC855) landed at YVR was Saturday, Dec. 19 at 1600. Air Canada is contacting its passengers (see the [AC statement below](#)).
- Passengers who arrived in Canada from the United Kingdom ahead of the Sunday 11:59pm ET ban were subject to secondary screening and enhanced measures, including increased scrutiny of their quarantine plans. As an added precaution, passengers who arrived recently from the UK will also receive additional direction from the Government of Canada. NOTE: All inbound passenger are required to file their quarantine plan via ArriveCAN, which ensures timely information flow from PHAC to Provincial Health official. (Full [PHAC news release](#))
- Passengers are assessed at their port of entry; for example, a Canadian returning from the UK via Toronto would be assessed there before they are granted entry into Canada and allowed on to a domestic flight. I have reached out to PHAC on the two remaining flights from Amsterdam and United. I will also connect you directly to Kevin Lowe, PHAC's Intergovernment contact for B.C.

Air Canada statement on UK flight ban (released Sunday)

Copyright

We regret the impact of the government directive to immediately suspend flights on our customers' travel plans in the middle of the holiday season and will continue to monitor this dynamic situation closely and adjust the schedule as appropriate.

Air Canada currently operates direct flights to London Heathrow from Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Thanks,

Trevor Boudreau (he/him | il/lui)

Manager, Government Relations

Office of the CEO | Vancouver Airport Authority

Mobile: 778.839.4671 | www.yvr.ca/TAKEcare



TAKEcare
à vos SOINS

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: HPOC-COPS, PHAC-ASPC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac-aspc.hpoc-cops@canada.ca>
Sent: December 21, 2020 12:23 PM
Subject: WHO EIS Posting - Updated Public Health Event - United Kingdom | COVID-19
Attachments: United Kingdom _ COVID-19 _ EIS.pdf

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DL 3 - Releasable to Authorized Organizations and Key Decision-Makers

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This report is for official use only and is not for public dissemination. Recipients may distribute it at their discretion, for operational purposes, to relevant public health officials in Canada.

Health Portfolio Operations Centre Notification

From: World Health Organization (WHO)

Please find attached International Health Regulations (IHR) related information which was posted to the WHO's secure Event Information Site (EIS) for IHR National Focal Points. Please note that this information is being provided for operational purposes only and does not include a Canadian-based risk assessment.

Overview:

- On 14 December 2020, authorities of the United Kingdom reported that a SARS-CoV-2 variant has been identified through viral genomic sequencing in the United Kingdom, including in 1108 individuals (as of 13 December 2020) in the United Kingdom.
- This variant is referred to in the United Kingdom as SARS-COV-2 VUI 202012/01 (Variant Under Investigation, year 2020, month 12, variant 01). Following analysis conducted in December this year, cases of VUI 202012/01 were identified dating back to September, with a rapid increase in cases reported in November in the United Kingdom.
- As of 21 December 2020, this particular variant has been identified in several countries including Denmark (10), Iceland (1), Italy (1), The Netherlands (1), and Australia (1).

Further details are available in the attached PDF.

The IHR National Focal Point Office of Canada will continue to monitor and communicate any new developments.

Regards | Sincères salutations

Emma Grimes

Health Portfolio Operations Centre, Public Health Agency of Canada

Centre des opérations du portefeuille de la santé, Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Tel/Tél : 613-952-7940

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: van Gelderen, Courtney [PHSA] <Courtney.vanGelderen@phsa.ca> on behalf of IBCOC <IBCOC@phsa.ca>
Sent: December 21, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Miller, Haley HLTH:EX; Brown, Ross Dr [VCH]; XT:Naus, Monika HLTH:IN; Reedijk, Jill [BCCDC]; Lavoie, Martin HLTH:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; XT:McDonald, Shannon HLTH:IN; XT:Dawkins, Laurie GCPE:IN; Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA]; Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX; VPOEOC [PHSA]; Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX; Galt, Jamie HLTH:EX; Pokorny, Peter HLTH:EX; Hassam, Noorjean [BCCDC]; 'tim.byres@forces.gc.ca'; XT:HLTH Brown, Libby; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN; 'SHEA.BRAMLEY@forces.gc.ca'; 'Patricia.Laing@forces.gc.ca'; Hinde, Grace [PHSA]; Smith, Paula GCPE:EX; XT:Pope, Darcia HLTH:IN; Bru, Carolyn GCPE:EX; 'Deborah.Lester@redcross.ca'; 'Robert.Macquarrie2@ecf.forces.gc.ca'; Quirk, Ron EHS:IN; Twyford, Philip HLTH:EX; Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX; XT:Palmer, Becky HLTH:IN; Virani, Alice [PHSA]; Thistle-Walker, Carlene HLTH:EX; IBCOC; Carroll, Jonathan C HLTH:EX; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX; Achampong, Bernard HLTH:EX; Massey, Keren L HLTH:EX; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX; Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX; Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Forge, Kathryn EMBC:EX; XT:Lavery, John HLTH:IN; CoastalSMD; IBCOC
Subject: FW: SARS-Cov-2 UK variant - not yet detected in BC - see attached summary report
Attachments: New UK variant - update from BC.docx

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Sent on behalf of Martin Lavoie

From: Lavoie, Martin HLTH:EX [mailto:Martin.Lavoie@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 10:07 AM
To: IBCOC
Cc: Brown, Ross Dr [VCH]
Subject: SARS-Cov-2 UK variant - not yet detected in BC - see attached summary report

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

Please share with IBCOC members as fyi.

Martin

From: Kraiden, Mel [BCCDC] <Mel.Kraiden@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 21, 2020 9:39 AM
Subject: SARS-Cov-2 UK variant - not yet detected in BC - see attached summary report

Natalie Prystajacky and her team has compiled a simple assessment of the SARS-CoV-2 UK variant – it has not yet been identified in BC or in Canada.

We will prioritize Whole Genome Sequencing from European travelers to monitor for its potential transmission in BC.

Season's greetings for Covid free, low stress holiday to everyone.

Mel

Mel Krajden, MD, FRCP(C)
Medical Director, BCCDC Public Health Laboratory
Medical Head, Hepatitis - Clinical Prevention Services
BC Centre for Disease Control
655 W 12th Ave.,
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4R4

Professor, Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Univ. of British Columbia
Tel 604-707-2421
Fax 604-707-2603

PHSA Laboratories

BCCDC Public Health Laboratory

December 21, 2020

New SARS-CoV-2 Variant from UK: Update and Impacts on BC

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¹ <https://virological.org/t/preliminary-genomic-characterisation-of-an-emergent-sars-cov-2-lineage-in-the-uk-defined-by-a-novel-set-of-spike-mutations/563>



Page 73 of 84

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Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Deena Hinshaw <Deena.Hinshaw@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: December 20, 2020 6:54 PM
To: CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Avis Gray; Brent Roussin; Catherine Elliott; Simms, Colleen (Ext.); Colleen Stockley; Dr. Barb Yaffe; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.); Dr. David Williams; Dr. Denise Werker; Dr. George Giovinazzo; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Dr. James Worthington; Dr. Janice Fitzgerald; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Dr. Michael Patterson; Dr. Robert Strang; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC); Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC); Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC); XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN; Greg Haley; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); Kandola, Kami (Ext.); Philip Christoff; Reka Gustafson; SK CMOH Single Window; Suzanne Fedorowich; Tami Denomie; Trish Merrithew-Mercredi; Vincent Beswick-Escanlar; YK Surveillance; Yves Jalbert
Cc: Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC); Bailey Muir-Cressman; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC); Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC); Carol Kurbis; Carter, Luke (HC/SC); Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC); Cindy Kruger; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.); Colleen Dudar; Sabapathy, David (Ext.); David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC); Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC); Dawn Osciak; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.); Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC); Diane Lu; Donna Milne; Elaine Barrett-Cramer; Look, Elaine (Ext.); Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC); Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC); Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC); Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC); Gillian MacDonald; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC); Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC); Heidi Liston; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC); Hill, Allison (HC/SC); Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC); HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC); Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC); Sherren, Janice (Ext.); Jasmine Pawa; Jazz Atwal; Jennifer White; Jocelyn LeBlond; Johnatha Smith; Follett, Juanita (Ext.); Karen Scherle; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC); Dean, Kelly (Ext.); King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC); Seeds, Laura (Ext.); Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC); Lebans, Anne (PHAC/ASPC); Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC); Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC); XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.); MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC); MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC); Maureen Carew; Maher, Maurica (Ext.); McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC); McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC); McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC); McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC); Conly, Meghan (HC/SC); Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.); Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC); NB Secretariat ; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC); Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Pamela MacMillan; Pat Seaman ; Penny Higdon; Ponice, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Rachel Comeau; Rachel Mailhot; Almond, Richard HLTH:EX; Richard Baydack; Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC); Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Russo, Laura (HC/SC); Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC); Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC); Poirier, Samantha (Ext.); Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC); Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC); Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX; Sylvie Poirier; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC); Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC); Teri Cole; Tracey Aylward; Vanessa Blyan
Subject: RE: Interim border measures for UK flights / Mesures provisoires aux frontières pour les vols en provenance du Royaume-Uni

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thank you for this information.

I wanted to give a heads up to everyone that we will be recommending testing for anyone who has returned from the UK in the past 14 days who has not already been tested through our border pilot. Just in case that information is useful to you.

Deena

Dr. Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health
Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine,
University of Calgary
24th Floor, ATB Place North Tower
10025 Jasper Avenue | Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6

Classification: Protected A

From: Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC) **On Behalf Of** CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC)

Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2020 6:55 PM

To: Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC) ; Avis Gray ; Brent Roussin ; Catherine Elliott ; Simms, Colleen (Ext.) ; Colleen Stockley ; Dr. Barb Yaffe ; Henry, Bonnie (Ext.) ; Hanley, Brendan (Ext.) ; Emerson, Brian (Ext.) ; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.) ; Dr. David Williams ; Deena Hinshaw ; Dr. Denise Werker ; Dr. George Giovinazzo ; Morrison, Heather (Ext.) ; Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC) ; Dr. James Worthington ; Dr. Janice Fitzgerald ; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.) ; Dr. Michael Patterson ; Dr. Robert Strang ; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.) ; Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC) ; Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) ; Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC) ; Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC) ; Evan Adams ; Greg Haley ; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.) ; Kandola, Kami (Ext.) ; Philip Christoff ; Reka Gustafson ; SK CMOH Single Window ; Suzanne Fedorowich ; Tami Denomie ; Trish Merrithew-Mercredi ; Vincent Beswick-Escanlar ; YK Surveillance ; Yves Jalbert

Cc: Ashley Halicki ; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC) ; Bailey Muir-Cressman ; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC) ; Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC) ; Carol Kurbis ; Carter, Luke (HC/SC) ; CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) ; Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC) ; Cindy Kruger ; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.) ; Colleen Dudar ; Sabapathy, David (Ext.) ; David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC) ; Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC) ; Dawn Osciak ; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.) ; Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC) ; Diane Lu ; Donna Milne ; Elaine Barrett-Cramer ; Look, Elaine (Ext.) ; Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC) ; Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC) ; Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC) ; Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC) ; Gillian MacDonald ; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC) ; Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC) ; Heidi Liston ; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC) ; Hill, Allison (HC/SC) ; Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC) ; HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC) ; Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC) ; Sherren, Janice (Ext.) ; Jasmine Pawa ; Jazz Atwal ; Jennifer White ; Jocelyn LeBlond ; Johnatha Smith ; Follett, Juanita (Ext.) ; Karen Scherle ; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC) ; Dean, Kelly (Ext.) ; King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC) ; Seeds, Laura (Ext.) ; Laurel Thompson ; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC) ; Lebans, Anne (PHAC/ASPC) ; Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC) ; Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC) ; Lori Carpenter ; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.) ; MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC) ; MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC) ; Maureen Carew ; Maher, Maurica (Ext.) ; McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC) ; McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC) ; McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC) ; McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC) ; Conly, Meghan (HC/SC) ; Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.) ; Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC) ; NB Secretariat ; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC) ; Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC) ; Pamela MacMillan ; Pat Seaman ; Penny Higdon ; Ponic, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC) ; Rachel Comeau ; Rachel Mailhot ; Almond, Richard (Ext.) ; Richard Baydack ; Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC) ; Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC) ; Russo, Laura (HC/SC) ; Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC) ; Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC) ; Poirier, Samantha (Ext.) ; Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC) ; Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC) ; Taylor, Stephanie (Ext.) ; Sylvie Poirier ; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC) ; Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC) ; Teri Cole ; Tracey Aylward ; Vanessa Blyan

Subject: Interim border measures for UK flights / Mesures provisoires aux frontières pour les vols en provenance du Royaume-Uni

CAUTION: This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Dear SAC members,

Please find below the link to the news release from the Government of Canada on interim border measures taken as precaution against the new variant of COVID-19 circulating in the UK.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/canada-suspends-flights-from-the-united-kingdom-for-72-hours.html>

Regards,
SAC Secretariat

Bonsoir,

Veillez trouver ci-dessous le lien vers le communiqué de presse du Gouvernement de Canada sur les mesures provisoires à la frontière prises comme précaution contre le nouvelle variante du COVID-19 circulant au Royaume-Uni.

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-publique/nouvelles/2020/12/le-canada-suspend-les-vols-en-provenance-du-royaume-uni-pendant-72-heures.html>

Cordialement,
Secrétariat du CSC

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Vandermolten, Chad HLTH:EX
Sent: December 20, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Samra, Kevin HLTH:EX
Subject: Rough Call Notes from Dec. 20 Ad Hoc Joint DMs of Health and Intergovernmental Affairs--Re UK Covid19 Variant

Importance: High

Good afternoon:

Some rough call notes below.

Thanks,
Chad

--Deputies were advised the below information is embargoed until public press release (eta ~4:30 p.m. Pacific). Sharing the below information so DMs can brief health ministers and premiers.

Update from Dr. Tam

--issue new Covid variation in UK, with southern England/London locus
--some suggestion this variant is more transmissible.
--so far no observed increase in severity of illness associated with this variation (though the evidence is evolving and we must remain cautious and vigilant)
--Canada's **PCR** tests *likely* not impacted by this variant, though we are not sure whether other tests may be impacted.
--Also studying implications re vaccine(s) matches/efficacy. As yet *undetermined* implications. However, based on what we know so far, that mutations are not expected to impact the efficacy of current vaccines.
--NML network→have repository of genetic information for about 15% of tests in Canada. We haven't really detected this UK strain in Canada yet (but will be doing more phenotyping to investigate further.)

Update from PHAC President Iain Stewart

--There are a number of incoming flights from the UK today.

- Will be enhanced front line scrutiny of passengers and their quarantine plans. If any concerns surface, these passengers will be directed to federally supervised quarantine sites. For other returning passengers *not* directed to federally supervised sites, there will be enhanced checks to ensure they are complying with their quarantine plans.

--Starting at midnight today, there will be a 72 hour ban on flights from the UK.

- During this time will re-examine quarantine process/requirements; and
- Will determine whether a longer ban is required.

Ontario Intergovernmental Affairs

- Indicates ON is formally requesting that all UK (and international from UK) inbound travelers be tested for Covid.
 - Iain Stewart response: we are examining logistics/feasibility. We may be interested in partnering with PTs (notes AB pilot project). Commits to a fed-ON bilateral on this topic.

QC Intergovernmental Affairs

- Notes same concerns as ON above and requests fed-QC bilat.
 - Feds commit to bilat.

MB Intergovernmental Affairs

--Question: Any evidence this UK strain has been detected in Canada in recent weeks? Also, do PTs need to do some kind of rapid/enhanced contact tracing re persons in-bound from UK?

- Dr. Tam: This variant has not yet been detected in Canada. PTs may want to review (Covid case) files re UK (and other international travelers) in recent weeks. SAC/CCMOHs and the technical committee will discuss this issue and appropriate measures.

SK Health

--Question: what about UK travelers entering Canada via U.S.

- Dr. Tam: At the U.S.-Can. Border there will be additional questions re whether travelers have recently been to the UK.

Canada/federal intergovernmental affairs

- Federal press release on this matter will be shared with PT DMs of Health and Intergovernmental Affairs shortly
- Reaffirm commitment to bilats with ON and QC
- Commit to future meetings and prompt sharing of info/developments going forward

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Hoang, Linda [BCCDC] <Linda.Hoang@bccdc.ca>
Sent: December 19, 2020 4:17 PM
To: XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Prystajecky, Natalie [BCCDC]; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC]; XT:HLTH Galañis, Eleni; XT:Naus, Monika HLTH:IN
Subject: Re: UK emergent strain

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I've forwarded the identifiers to Silvena Mena...

Linda

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 19, 2020, at 4:14 PM, Krajden, Mel [BCCDC] wrote:

Bonnie, The mink strains are not related to this UK variant. The mink strains are closely related to circulating FH strains. It would be worth investigating the epidemiological links to the strains identified from from^{s.22} between Nov 20-27 and residing in^{s.22} area to see if their was any travel history related to the UK direct or indirect. Copying Reka, Danuta, Eleni and Monika. Mel

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: December 19, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Hoang, Linda [BCCDC]; Krajden, Mel [BCCDC]
Cc: Prystajecky, Natalie [BCCDC]
Subject: RE: UK emergent strain
EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

Thank you. I was going to reach out and see what you had on this. Any of the mink strains have that nutation?

b

Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Office of the PHO

Ministry of Health

4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, BC

V8W 9P4

Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: [250 952-1330](tel:250-952-1330)

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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From: Hoang, Linda [BCCDC]
Sent: December 19, 2020 4:04 PM
To: XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN ; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Prystajacky, Natalie [BCCDC]
Subject: UK emergent strain

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Mel and Bonnie,

This is the link to the article that describes the emerging UK strain

<https://virological.org/t/preliminary-genomic-characterisation-of-an-emergent-sars-cov-2-lineage-in-the-uk-defined-by-a-novel-set-of-spike-mutations/563>

There are 16 synonymous mutations one of which is N501Y, one of six key contact residues within the receptor-binding domain (RBD) and has been identified as increasing binding affinity to human and murine ACE2.

We went through the sequences in our database and identified ^{s.22} cases with collection dates Nov 20-27, and residing in ^{s.22} area.

While the strain we see is not the same as the UK strain, but this mutation may be of importance and need to watch closely.

We will work on a strategy for screening potentially virulent strains and send your way.

Linda

P.S. Will let Interior Health know.

Sent from my iPhone

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC) <stephanie.davies@canada.ca> on behalf of CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>
Sent: December 19, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Avis Gray; Brent Roussin; Catherine Elliott; Simms, Colleen (Ext.); Colleen Stockley; Dr. Barb Yaffe; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.); Dr. David Williams; Dr. Deena Hinshaw; Dr. Denise Werker; Dr. George Giovinazzo; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Dr. James Worthington; Dr. Janice Fitzgerald; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Dr. Michael Patterson; Dr. Robert Strang; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC); Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC); Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC); XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN; Greg Haley; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); Kandola, Kami (Ext.); Philip Christoff; Reka Gustafson; SK CMOH Single Window; Suzanne Fedorowich; Tami Denomie; Trish Merrithew; Vincent Beswick Escanlar; YK Surveillance; Yves Jalbert
Cc: Ugnat, Anne-Marie (PHAC/ASPC); Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC); Bailey Muir-Cressman; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC); Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC); Carol Kurbis; Carter, Luke (HC/SC); CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC); Cindy Kruger; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.); Colleen Dudar; Sabapathy, David (Ext.); David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC); Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC); Dawn Osciak; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.); Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC); Diane Lu; Donna Milne; Elaine Barrett-Cramer; Look, Elaine (Ext.); Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC); Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC); Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC); Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC); Gillian MacDonald; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC); Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC); Heidi Liston; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC); Hill, Allison (HC/SC); Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC); HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC); Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC); Sherren, Janice (Ext.); Jasmine Pawa; Jazz Atwal; Jennifer White; Joanna Seeley; Jocelyn LeBlond; Johnatha Smith; Follett, Juanita (Ext.); Karen Scherle; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC); Dean, Kelly (Ext.); King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC); Seeds, Laura (Ext.); Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC); Lebars, Anne (PHAC/ASPC); Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC); Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC); XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.); MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC); MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC); Maureen Carew; Maher, Maurica (Ext.); McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC); McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC); McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC); McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC); Conly, Meghan (HC/SC); Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.); Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC); NB Secretariat ; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC); Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Pamela MacMillan; Pat Seaman ; Penny Higdon; Ponc, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC); Rachel Comeau; Rachel Mailhot; Almond, Richard HLTH:EX; Richard Baydack; Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC); Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC); Russo, Laura (HC/SC); Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC); Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC); Poirier, Samantha (Ext.); Shelley Landsburg; Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC); Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC); Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX; Sylvie Poirier; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC); Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC); Teri Cole; Tracey Aylward; Vanessa Blyan
Subject: For Information: UK variant of the SARS-CoV2 coronavirus

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good day SAC members,

For your awareness, please see the email below being shared on behalf of Dr. Tam regarding a UK variant of the SARS-CoV2 coronavirus.

Kind regards,
SAC Secretariat

There is much interest today on a UK variant of the SARS-CoV2 coronavirus.

According to media the this newly identified variant could be spreading faster leading to a surge in cases in the UK. There is no current evidence that this variant causes more severe illness or deaths. There is no evidence that this variant impacts laboratory tests and no evidence of impact on vaccines but work is underway to confirm this.

There is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the UK, so more restrictive public health measures to slow down the spread have been announced. This new variant could potentially explain this resurgence but the increase could also be due to other factors. Of note there is a recent resurgence in COVID-19 cases in a number of European countries.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is gathering more information from the UK, European partners and World Health Organization. The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) is connected to their counterparts who are studying the biology of the virus. So far the NML analysis of the sequence confirms no clear signal of concern for vaccine effectiveness or diagnostic assays.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/britain-uk-coronavirus-mutation-strain-spread-covid-19-1.5848800>

TT

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 19, 2020 7:23 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; 'Nicola Lambrechts'; Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX
Subject: new variant?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55372743>

Something to talk about on Monday's call if asked this week?

Sent from my Galaxy

new variant call.msg

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX s.15
s.15

To: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX

Sent: December 26, 2020 10:38:27 AM PST

Received: December 26, 2020 10:38:28 AM PST

Priority: Normal (5)

Calendar Item Type: REQUEST

FW: For information: Ontario News Release

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
To: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 26, 2020 1:38:49 PM PST
Attachments: UK Variant_NR_v13 FINAL.docx

s.13

We are getting more details on our case in VIHA. s.22
s.22

s.22 person s.22 and was tested at LifeLabs who is tracking down the isolate to send to BCCDC. Likely won't get WGS until Monday. This person s.22 left on flight from Heathrow to YVR cs.22 . Symptoms started s.22 , so not likely to have been exposed in UK. Will get communications to draft a statement for tomorrow.

B

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
Phone s.17; s.19

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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From: Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC) <kerry.robinson@canada.ca> **On Behalf Of** CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC)

Sent: December 26, 2020 1:28 PM

To: CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>; Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC) <anna.romano@canada.ca>; 'Avis Gray' <avis.gray@gov.mb.ca>; 'Brent Roussin' <brent.roussin@gov.mb.ca>; 'Catherine Elliott' <catherine.elliott@gov.yk.ca>; Simms, Colleen (Ext.) <colleensimms@gov.nl.ca>; 'Colleen Stockley' <ColleenStockley@gov.nl.ca>; 'Dr. Barb Yaffe' <barbara.yaffe@ontario.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN <Brendan.Hanley@gov.yk.ca>; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>; Muecke, Cristin (Ext.) <dr.cristin.muecke@gnb.ca>; 'Dr. David Williams' <dr.david.williams@ontario.ca>; 'Dr. Deena Hinshaw' <deena.hinshaw@gov.ab.ca>; 'Dr. Denise Werker' <denise.werker1@health.gov.sk.ca>; 'Dr. George Giovinazzo' <george.giovinazzo@cic.gc.ca>; Morrison, Heather (Ext.) <hgmorrison@gov.pe.ca>; Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC) <howard.njoo@canada.ca>; 'Dr. James Worthington' <dr.james.worthington@csc-scc.gc.ca>; 'Dr. Janice Fitzgerald' <janice.fitzgerald@gov.nl.ca>; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.) <jennifer.russell@gnb.ca>; 'Dr. Michael Patterson' <mpatterson@gov.nu.ca>; 'Dr. Robert Strang' <robert.strang@novascotia.ca>; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.) <saqib.shahab@health.gov.sk.ca>; Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC) <supriya.sharma@canada.ca>; Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>; Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC) <tom.wong@canada.ca>; Cleary, Eilish (SAC/ISC) <eilish.cleary@canada.ca>; XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN <evan.adams@fnha.ca>; 'Greg Haley' <GREG.Haley@forces.gc.ca>; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.) <horacio.arruda@msss.gouv.qc.ca>; Kandola, Kami (Ext.) <kami_kandola@gov.nt.ca>; 'Philip Christoff' <philip.christoff@gov.yk.ca>; 'Reka Gustafson' <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; 'SK CMOH Single Window' <OCMHO@health.gov.sk.ca>; 'Suzanne Fedorowich' <suzanne.fedorowich@health.gov.sk.ca>; 'Tami Denomie' <tami.denomie@health.gov.sk.ca>; 'Trish Merrithew' <Trish.Merrithew-Mercredi@gov.ab.ca>; 'Vincent Beswick-Escanlar' <VINCENT.BESWICK-ESCANLAR@forces.gc.ca>; 'YK Surveillance' <YCDCsurveillance@gov.yk.ca>; 'Yves Jalbert' <yves.jalbert@msss.gouv.qc.ca>

Cc: Halicki, Ashley HLTH:EX <Ashley.Halicki@gov.bc.ca>; Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC) <julie.auger@canada.ca>; 'Bailey Muir-Cressman' <Bailey.Muir-Cressman@gov.yk.ca>; Barton, Kimby (PHAC/ASPC) <kimby.barton@canada.ca>; Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC) <stephen.bent@canada.ca>; 'Carol Kurbis' <Carol.Kurbis@gov.mb.ca>; Carter, Luke (HC/SC) <luke.carter@canada.ca>; CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>; Charos, Gina (PHAC/ASPC) <gina.charos@canada.ca>; 'Cindy Kruger' <cindy.kruger@csc-scc.gc.ca>; Rogers, Cindy (Ext.) <cindy.rogers@health.gov.sk.ca>; 'Colleen Dudar' <Colleen.Dudar@gov.mb.ca>; Sabapathy, David (Ext.) <dsabapathy@gov.pe.ca>; David, Renee (PHAC/ASPC) <renee.david@canada.ca>; Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC) <stephanie.davies@canada.ca>; 'Dawn Osciak' <dawn.osciak@gov.mb.ca>; Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.) <debbie.panchyshyn@gov.mb.ca>; Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC) <joel.denis@canada.ca>; 'Diane Lu' <Diane.Lu@forces.gc.ca>; 'Donna Milne' <Donna.Milne@gov.yk.ca>; 'Elaine Barrett-Cramer' <Elaine.Barrett-Cramer@cic.gc.ca>; Look, Elaine (Ext.) <elaine_look@gov.nt.ca>; Elmslie, Kim (PHAC/ASPC) <kim.elmslie@canada.ca>; Evans, Cindy (PHAC/ASPC) <cindy.evans@canada.ca>; Everitt, Louisa (PHAC/ASPC) <louisa.everitt@canada.ca>; Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC) <sarah.fournier@canada.ca>; 'Gillian MacDonald' <Gillian.MacDonald2@ontario.ca>; Guenette, Tara-Lynn (PHAC/ASPC) <tara-lynn.guenette@canada.ca>; Hamel, Sonia (PHAC/ASPC) <sonia.hamel@canada.ca>; 'Heidi Liston' <Heidi.Liston@gnb.ca>; Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC) <erine.henry@canada.ca>; Hill, Allison (HC/SC) <allison.hill@canada.ca>; Hostrawser, Bonnie (PHAC/ASPC) <bonnie.hostrawser@canada.ca>; HPOC PHM / COPS MSP (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.hpoc.phm-msp.cops.aspc@canada.ca>; Ingraham, Erin (HC/SC) <erin.ingraham@canada.ca>; Sherren, Janice (Ext.) <jesherren@gov.pe.ca>; 'Jasmine Pawa' <jpawa@gov.nu.ca>; 'Jazz Atwal' <Jazz.Atwal@gov.mb.ca>; 'Jennifer White' <jennifer.white2@gov.mb.ca>; 'Jocelyn LeBlond' <Jocelyn.LeBlond@health.gov.sk.ca>; 'Johnatha Smith' <Jonathan.Smith@CSC-SCC.GC.CA>; Follett, Juanita (Ext.) <juanitafollett@gov.nl.ca>; 'Karen Scherle' <Karen.Scherle@health.gov.sk.ca>; Cadorette, Katie (HC/SC) <katie.cadorette@canada.ca>; Dean, Kelly (Ext.) <kelly.dean@gov.ns.ca>; King2, Arlene (PHAC/ASPC) <arlene.king2@canada.ca>; Seeds, Laura (Ext.) <laura.seeds@ontario.ca>; Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX <Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>; Hunter, Laurie (PHAC/ASPC) <laurie.hunter@canada.ca>; Lebans, Anne (PHAC/ASPC) <anne.lebans@canada.ca>; Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC) <darlene.lewis@canada.ca>; Lior, Lee (PHAC/ASPC) <lee.lior@canada.ca>; XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN <lori.carpenter@fnha.ca>; Yeo, Lyn (Ext.) <lyn.yeo@health.gov.sk.ca>; MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC) <tammy.macdonald2@canada.ca>; MacKenzie, Sara (HC/SC) <sara.mackenzie@canada.ca>; 'Maureen Carew' <MAUREEN.CAREW@forces.gc.ca>; Maher, Maurica (Ext.) <maurica.maher@forces.gc.ca>; McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC) <jane.mccarney@canada.ca>; McGarr, Holly (PHAC/ASPC) <holly.mcgarr@canada.ca>; McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC) <robyn.mcleod@canada.ca>; McNeill, Robin (PHAC/ASPC) <robin.mcneill@canada.ca>; Conly, Meghan (HC/SC) <meghan.conly@canada.ca>; Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.) <michelle.sveinson@gov.mb.ca>; Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC) <debjani.mitra@canada.ca>; 'NB Secretariat' <NB-PT-PHNC-Secretariat@gnb.ca>; Paddle, Lisa (PHAC/ASPC) <lisa.paddle@canada.ca>; Huber, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC) <pamela.huber@canada.ca>; 'Pamela MacMillan' <Pamela.Macmillan@gnb.ca>; 'Pat Seaman' <pat.seaman@gnb.ca>; 'Penny Higdon' <penny.higdon@gnb.ca>; Ponc, Pamela (PHAC/ASPC) <pamela.ponc@canada.ca>; 'Rachel Comeau' <rachel.comeau@gnb.ca>; 'Rachel Mailhot' <Rachel.mailhot@cic.gc.ca>; Almond, Richard HLTH:EX <Richard.Almond@gov.bc.ca>; 'Richard Baydack' <Richard.Baydack@gov.mb.ca>; Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC) <anna.romano@canada.ca>; Russo, Laura (HC/SC) <laura.russo@canada.ca>; Rutledge-Taylor, Katie (PHAC/ASPC) <katie.rutledge-taylor@canada.ca>; Salvadori, Marina (PHAC/ASPC) <marina.salvadori@canada.ca>; Poirier, Samantha (Ext.) <samantha.poirier@gnb.ca>; Siu, Winnie (PHAC/ASPC) <winnie.siu@canada.ca>; Smith, Cheryl (HC/SC) <cheryl.smith@canada.ca>; Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX <Stephanie.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>; 'Sylvie Poirier' <Sylvie.Poirier@msss.gouv.qc.ca>; Cidsc Secretariat (PHAC/ASPC) <phac.cidsc.secretariat.aspc@canada.ca>; Taylor, Dorcas (PHAC/ASPC) <dorcas.taylor@canada.ca>; 'Teri Cole' <Teri.Cole@novascotia.ca>; 'Tracey Aylward' <TraceyAylward@gov.nl.ca>; 'Vanessa Blyan' <Vanessa.Blyan@gov.ab.ca>

Subject: For information: Ontario News Release

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear SAC members,

Please find attached a news release from Ontario that went live this afternoon regarding case with the UK variant of SARS-CoV2.

Thank you,

SAC Secretariat

Ontario Confirms First Cases of COVID-19 UK Variant in Ontario
To Help Stop the Spread Ontario Entered Provincewide Shutdown Beginning today

NEWS

December 26, 2020

Copyright

MEDIA CONTACTS

Alexandra Hilkene
Minister Elliott's Office
alexandra.hilkene@ontario.ca

David Jensen
Communications Division
416-314-6197
media.moh@ontario.ca

ontario.ca/health-news
Disponible en français

Re: For PHO/MO Review: HLTH Media Request: COVID 19 - UK variant

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>, van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>, May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 26, 2020 4:42:18 PM PST

Great, thank you! I'll send at 5 unless MO has changes. Thanks all.

Kirsten Youngs
COVID Communications
250 858-0555

On Dec 26, 2020, at 4:36 PM, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks, that looks good to me.
B

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
s.17, s.19

On Dec 26, 2020, at 4:15 PM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Will connect with Tessa tomorrow ahead of the statement release but for tonight, any suggestions to the below holding message?

Reporter

Tessa Vikander, Freelancer
CTV - Vancouver
tessa.vikander@bellmedia.ca
s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request

Given the news that two cases of the UK variant of COVID-19 have been found in Ontario, will B.C. be adding any restrictions to flights coming in from Ontario? Will B.C. be changing any of its prevention measures? Adding in new restrictions? What do the Ontario cases mean for B.C.?

Recommendation: provide on background

We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in BC travellers that potentially came from the U.K.

Genetic analysis is being performed to identify if there have been previous or new cases associated with this variant.

The new strain only emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now, especially as we are rolling out our immunization program for the most vulnerable people in BC, including many frontline health care workers.

We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

FYI: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 8:51:25 AM PST
Attachments: ST_New strain case confirmation_Dec26 2020_DR1.docx, KM+QA_New COVID strain_Dec 26 2020_DR1.docx

Good morning, Minister – wanted you to know that a draft ST is currently with the PHO for input/edits re the first UK variant case in BC. Hoping to get it to you mid-morning for your review, and out the door around 1pm today.
s.13

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>; 'Nicola Lambrechts' <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA

Morning all,

Draft ST and KM+QA attached for your review/edits, Dr. H. The KM+QA is for potential media requests/social channel response, happy to add more Q's.

CBC Vancouver has connected on this topic this morning, in addition to CTV and News1130 yesterday – s.13

s.13

Island Health will also be ready to provide interviews if needed as I assume you want to focus on the work today and not do media – but happy to schedule a couple interviews if that's your preference.

s.13

Once you've made edits, I'll share with Minister and Amanda for their input and approval.

Kirsten Youngs, MAIC (she/her/hers) | COVID Communications Director

Ministry of Health | Government Communications & Public Engagement

T: (250) 356-0543 | C: (250) 858-0555

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Health
Provincial Health Office

Statement on first COVID UK variant case in B.C.

VICTORIA – Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, have issued the following joint statement announcing the first confirmed case in British Columbia of the COVID-19 variant first identified in the United Kingdom:

“B.C. has identified the first case of the COVID-19 UK variant^{s.13}

s.13 The individual returned to B.C. from the UK on flight AC855 on Dec. 15, 2020, ^{s.13}

s.13 Testing confirmed the positive
diagnosis on Dec. 19, 2020, a small number of close contacts^{s.13}

s.13

s.13

“B.C. continues to support the Canada-wide travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until Jan. 6, 2021 and urges all British Columbians to continue to avoid all non-essential travel to keep people and communities safe.

“It is important to note that there is no evidence that the new COVID-19 variant is more likely to cause severe illness, nor is there evidence to suggest that the Health Canada-approved vaccines will be any less effective against the new variant.

“However, studies suggest that the COVID-19 variant first identified in the UK can spread more quickly and easily, which is why British Columbians everywhere should continue to be cautious and follow all PHO orders and guidelines, stay close to home, avoid non-essential travel and practice safe, social distancing when in public indoor spaces.

“All British Columbians have to remember the virus spreads quickly but shows up slowly. By staying local, avoiding all non-essential travel and using our layers of protection, we can reduce the potential for a surge in new cases and keep our communities and loved ones safe.”

Contact:

COVID Communications Director

Ministry of Health
(250) 858-0555

GENERAL

Key Messages

- **We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in B.C. travellers that potentially came from the U.K.**
 - s.13
- **This person did the right thing – they^{s.13} and as soon as they noticed symptoms, they got tested^{s.13}**
 - s.13
- s.13
- **The new variant emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now, especially as we are rolling out our immunization program for the most vulnerable people in BC, including many frontline health care workers.**
- **The Ministry of Health continues to work with other jurisdictions to monitor the developing situation and ensure coordinated, effective and shared efforts to protect people and communities.**
- **We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.**
- **Canada has posted a travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until January 6, 2021, and B.C.'s Public Health Office strongly advises that travel out of the province or across health regions should be limited to essential travel only.**

Top 10 Question & Answer

1. We only just identified a vaccine for COVID, will the vaccine have the same effect on this new strain?

s.13

-
- All evidence suggests that, while the new variant appears to spread more easily and quickly, it is not causing more severe illness and the vaccine will have the same impact on the new COVID variant.
- We will continue to administer the vaccine as quickly as possible to the people identified as most vulnerable or at-risk in this first phase of our vaccination rollout.

2. What can you tell us about the case? Where does the person live? Why can't you share that information when Ontario has for their cases?

- In order to protect a patient's right to privacy and protect them from potential stigmatization, names and exact locations of COVID-positive patients are kept confidential.
- We can share that they live on Vancouver Island and contact tracers work as quickly as possible to identify and contact all potential exposures.
- They travelled from the UK to B.C. on December 15th and developed symptoms on Dec 17th and were tested shortly after.
- A small number of close contacts have been identified and the case and all contacts have been isolating, with VIHA is following up with them daily.

3. Are you going to shut down travel from other provinces?

KM+QA – New COVID-19 variant

- The PHO already strongly advises people to stay local, reduce non-essential travels and to avoid crossing the border unless for emergency or other essential services such as medical care or work.
- We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in B.C. travelers that potentially came from the U.K.
- We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

4. Will this affect the vaccination rollout?

- No. B.C. will continue to vaccinate as many long-term care home staff and residents, as well as many frontline healthcare workers, as we can and as quickly as we can.
- The new strain only emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now.

5. Was there any way that we could have seen this coming or prepared for this?

- Luckily, most British Columbians are doing the right things already by staying close to home, closing their circle and practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask when in public spaces.
- We have been monitoring the situation in the UK and fully support Canada's ban on international flights coming into Canada.
- This new variant was to be expected – much like the different influenza strains that we see annually, this type of virus does typically mutate.
- Thankfully, this variant does not appear to be more severe or to cause a more serious reaction in people.

- However,^{s.13} more easily and more quickly, which is why we must continue to do all we can to keep our loved ones and our communities safe by keeping to our immediate households, avoiding non-essential travel and practicing physical distancing.

6. What are you doing to protect people from the new variant?

- The good news is that most British Columbians are already doing the right thing by staying close to home, practicing physical distancing and following PHO guidance and orders.
- Canada has posted a travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until January 6, 2021, and B.C.'s Public Health Office strongly advises that travel out of the province or across health regions should be limited to essential travel only.

7. Vancouver Island is home to many First Nation communities – is the new case in one of them and even if not, what are you doing to protect Indigenous Elders and communities?

- ^{s.13} I can confirm that the new case is not in an Indigenous community.
- Protecting Indigenous Elders and communities from the virus has been a priority since the onset of COVID-19 and we have been working closely with Indigenous leaders to understand what we can do to best support their efforts and protect their communities.
- That now includes prioritizing Indigenous communities in the initial vaccination rollout.

8. You keep saying that schools are safe for kids and that mandatory masks are not necessary – can you confirm that the new case is not a school-aged young person? And even if yes, does the new variant change your policy to

keep schools open through the respiratory season and not making masks mandatory?

- Yes, the person is an adult.
- As we have recently shown through modelling, children continue to transmit the virus at very low rates in comparison to other age groups.
- What is happening in our schools is a reflection of what is happening in our communities and indeed our households and the best thing for people to do to stop this virus is to limit their social interactions, stay close to home and practice physical distancing when in public indoor spaces.

9. Will this new variant mean new restrictions for British Columbians in the new year?

- As the COVID-19 situation and virus evolves, so too will our response to it.
- We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

10. Are there any other known cases in other provinces, or the world?

- ^{s.13} two confirmed cases in Ontario.
- But other cases are to be expected. This virus has shown that it doesn't care about provincial borders and that it goes where people go. Other cases are just a matter of time.
- This variant has now been detected in multiple countries beyond the UK, including Denmark, Belgium, Australia and the Netherlands.

RE: FYI: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 9:23:08 AM PST

Sounds good,^{s.13} . Appreciate it, Minister.
Dr. H says she can do a few telephone interviews this afternoon as well.

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: FYI: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA
All looks good, except^{s.13}

s.13

Dr. Stanwick or others from VIHA can be available for interviews on the subject. Makes sense to do that.
Adrian
Thanks Kirsten.
Adrian

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 27, 2020, at 8:51 AM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning, Minister – wanted you to know that a draft ST is currently with the PHO for input/edits re the first UK variant case in BC. Hoping to get it to you mid-morning for your review, and out the door around 1pm today.

s.13

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>; 'Nicola Lambrechts' <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA

Morning all,
Draft ST and KM+QA attached for your review/edits, Dr. H. The KM+QA is for potential media requests/social channel response, happy to add more Q's.
CBC Vancouver has connected on this topic this morning, in addition to CTV and News1130 yesterday –

s.13

Island Health will also be ready to provide interviews if needed as I assume you want to focus on the work today and not do media – but happy to schedule a couple interviews if that's your preference.

s.13

Once you've made edits, I'll share with Minister and Amanda for their input and approval.
Kirsten Youngs, MAIC (she/her/hers) | COVID Communications Director
Ministry of Health | Government Communications & Public Engagement
T: (250) 356-0543 | C: (250) 858-0555
<ST_New strain case confirmation_Dec26 2020_DR1.docx>
<KM+QA_New COVID strain_Dec 26 2020_DR1.docx>

UPDATED: For PHO/MO final review: ST + KM-QA

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>, van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, Nicola Lambrechts <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>, Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>, Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>, May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>, XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN
Sent: December 27, 2020 10:52:28 AM PST
Attachments: ST_New strain case confirmation_Dec27 2020_DR2.docx, KM+QA_New COVID variant_Dec 27 2020_DR2.docx

Updated ST and KM+QA attached for your final review Minister & Dr. Henry.
Happy to make further changes before 12:30pm, after which time I'll send to our Editors to tee up for a 1pm release.
Will schedule any (phone) media between 1:30-2pm for Dr. Henry. Limit to five minutes.
If local outlets are pushing for more, Dr. Stanwick is available to echo as desired after 2pm.

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Subject: RE: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA
Some changes for this too. ^{s.13}

s.13

b

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
Phone: ^{s.17; s.19}

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Health
Provincial Health Office

Statement on first COVID UK variant case in B.C.

VICTORIA – Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, have issued the following joint statement announcing the first confirmed case of a person in British Columbia infected with the COVID-19 variant first identified in the United Kingdom:

"B.C. has identified the first case of a person in B.C. infected with the COVID-19 UK variant. The individual, who resides in the Vancouver Island Health Region, returned to B.C. from the UK on flight AC855 on Dec. 15, 2020, developed symptoms while in quarantine and was immediately tested. Testing confirmed the positive diagnosis on Dec. 19, 2020; a small number of close contacts have been isolated and public health is following up with them daily.

The variant strain was detected by the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory in their review of all isolates from people who had recently returned from travel to the UK. Whole genome sequencing at the BCCDC identified this as being the same as the variant seen in the UK.

s.13

"B.C. continues to support the Canada-wide travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until Jan. 6, 2021 and urges all British Columbians to continue to avoid all non-essential travel to keep people and communities safe.

"It is important to note that there is no evidence that the new COVID-19 variant is more likely to cause severe illness, nor is there evidence to suggest that the Health Canada-approved vaccines will be any less effective against the new variant.

"However, studies suggest that the COVID-19 variant first identified in the UK can spread more quickly and easily, which is why British Columbians everywhere must continue to be cautious and follow all PHO orders and guidelines, stay close to home, avoid non-essential travel and practice safe, physical distancing and wear a mask when in public indoor spaces.

"All British Columbians have to remember the virus spreads quickly but shows up slowly. By staying local, avoiding all non-essential travel and using our layers of protection, we can reduce the potential for a surge in new cases and keep our communities and loved ones safe."

Contact:

COVID Communications Director
Ministry of Health
(250) 858-0555

GENERAL

Key Messages

- **We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in B.C. travelers that potentially came from the U.K. as well as from South Africa.**
- s.13
- **This person did the right thing – they were following quarantine and as soon as they developed symptoms, they arranged to have testing.**
- s.13
- **The new variant emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now, especially as we are rolling out our immunization program for the most vulnerable people in BC, including many frontline health care workers.**
- **The Ministry of Health continues to work with other jurisdictions to monitor the developing situation and ensure coordinated, effective and shared efforts to protect people and communities.**
- **We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.**
- **Canada has posted a travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until January 6, 2021, and B.C.'s Public Health Office strongly advises that travel out of the province or across health regions should be limited to essential travel only.**

Top 10 Question & Answer

1. We only just identified a vaccine for COVID, will the vaccine have the same effect on this new strain?

- So far there is no indication the new strain has any effect on the vaccine - however, tests are ongoing in the UK to be certain.
- All evidence suggests that, while the new variant appears to spread more easily and quickly, it is not causing more severe illness and the vaccine will have the same impact on the new COVID variant.
- We will continue to administer the vaccine as quickly as possible to the people identified as most vulnerable or at-risk in this first phase of our vaccination rollout.

2. What can you tell us about the case? Where does the person live? Why can't you share that information when Ontario has for their cases?

- In order to protect a patient's right to privacy and protect them from potential stigmatization, names and exact locations of COVID-positive patients are kept confidential.
- We can share that they live on Vancouver Island and contact tracers work as quickly as possible to identify and contact all potential exposures.
- They travelled from the UK to B.C. on December 15th and developed symptoms on December 17th and were tested shortly after.
- A small number of close contacts have been identified and the case and all contacts have been isolating, with VIHA is following up with them daily.

3. Are you going to shut down travel from other provinces?

KM+QA – New COVID-19 variant

- The PHO already strongly advises people to stay local, reduce non-essential travels and to avoid crossing the border unless for emergency or other essential services such as medical care or work.
- We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in B.C. travelers that potentially came from the U.K.
- We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

4. Will this affect the vaccination rollout?

- No. B.C. will continue to vaccinate as many long-term care home staff and residents, as well as many frontline healthcare workers, as we can and as quickly as we can.
- The new strain only emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now.

5. Was there any way that we could have seen this coming or prepared for this?

- Luckily, most British Columbians are doing the right things already by staying close to home, closing their circle and practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask when in public spaces.
- We have been monitoring the situation in the UK and now potentially South Africa, and fully support Canada's ban on international flights coming into Canada.
- This new variant was to be expected – much like the different influenza strains that we see annually, this type of virus does typically mutate.
- Thankfully, this variant does not appear to cause a more severe illness in people.

- However, it does appear to spread more easily and more quickly, which is why we must continue to do all we can to keep our loved ones and our communities safe by keeping to our immediate households, avoiding non-essential travel and practicing physical distancing.

6. What are you doing to protect people from the new variant?

- The good news is that most British Columbians are already doing the right thing by staying close to home, practicing physical distancing and following PHO guidance and orders.
- Canada has posted a travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until January 6, 2021, and B.C.'s Public Health Office strongly advises that travel out of the province or across health regions should be limited to essential travel only.

7. Vancouver Island is home to many First Nation communities – is the new case in one of them and even if not, what are you doing to protect Indigenous Elders and communities?

- I can confirm that the new case is not in an Indigenous community.
- Protecting Indigenous Elders and communities from the virus has been a priority since the onset of COVID-19 and we have been working closely with Indigenous leaders to understand what we can do to best support their efforts and protect their communities.
- That now includes prioritizing Indigenous communities in the initial vaccination rollout.

8. You keep saying that schools are safe for kids and that mandatory masks are not necessary – can you confirm that the new case is not a school-aged young person? And even if yes, does the new variant change your policy to

keep schools open through the respiratory season and not making masks mandatory?

- Yes, the person is an adult.
- As we have recently shown through modelling, children continue to transmit the virus at very low rates in comparison to other age groups.
- What is happening in our schools is a reflection of what is happening in our communities and indeed our households and the best thing for people to do to stop this virus is to limit their social interactions, stay close to home and practice physical distancing when in public indoor spaces.

9. Will this new variant mean new restrictions for British Columbians in the new year?

- As the COVID-19 situation and virus evolves, so too will our response to it.
- We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

10. Are there any other known cases in other provinces, or the world?

- So far there are only two confirmed cases in Ontario, however BC and the other provinces in Canada are reviewing all the positive tests from the past few weeks and it is likely additional cases will be found.
- But other cases are to be expected. This virus has shown that it doesn't care about provincial borders and that it goes where people go. Other cases are just a matter of time.
- This variant has now been detected in multiple countries beyond the UK, including Denmark, Belgium, Australia and the Netherlands.
- We are also monitoring flights that are incoming from South Africa.

RE: UPDATED: For PHO/MO final review: ST + KM-QA

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 11:30:49 AM PST

s.22

Thank you for these, will ensure she connects with all 4.

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 27, 2020 11:29 AM

To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: UPDATED: For PHO/MO final review: ST + KM-QA

Yes. If she is around. Or the CTV van island folks. Global and CTV and CBC are producing web copy. Those 3 and CP for Bonnie

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 27, 2020, at 11:20 AM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sounds good. Bhinder with CTV perhaps?

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 27, 2020 11:20 AM

To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: UPDATED: For PHO/MO final review: ST + KM-QA

Can we make sure one of the calls is Keith Baldrey. He will be on the air tonight and we need Dr. Henry's message out there. One with CTV as we'll wither Bc or Vanisland

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 27, 2020, at 10:52 AM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Updated ST and KM+QA attached for your final review Minister & Dr. Henry.
Happy to make further changes before 12:30pm, after which time I'll send to our Editors to tee up for a 1pm release.
Will schedule any (phone) media between 1:30-2pm for Dr. Henry. Limit to five minutes.
If local outlets are pushing for more, Dr. Stanwick is available to echo as desired after 2pm.

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 27, 2020 10:19 AM

To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>; 'Nicola Lambrechts' <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: For PHO Input/Review: ST + KM-QA

Some changes for this too. ^{s.13}

s.13

b

Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4

Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: s.17; s.19

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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<ST_New strain case confirmation_Dec27 2020_DR2.docx>

<KM+QA_New COVID variant_Dec 27 2020_DR2.docx>

RE: UPDATED: For PHO/MO final review: ST + KM-QA

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To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
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Sent: December 27, 2020 12:34:31 PM PST
Attachments: KM+QA_New COVID variant_Dec 27 2020_DR2.docx, ST_New strain case confirmation_Dec27 2020_DR2 bh.docx

A few changes to reflect that it was not this flight that we are following up on. This case was not infectious on ^{s.22} flight. It is the as yet unconfirmed Alberta case that we are following passengers who were seated around them on the Dec 19th flight.

B

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
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Subject: UPDATED: For PHO/MO final review: ST + KM-QA
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GENERAL

Key Messages

- We are aware of the cases reported in Ontario and have been watching this closely, while reviewing all positive cases in B.C. travelers that potentially came from the U.K. as well as from South Africa.
- As was not unexpected, a case with the UK variant has been detected in a returning traveller infected with covid: an adult in the Island Health region.
- This person did the right thing – they were following quarantine and as soon as they developed symptoms, they arranged to have testing.
- s.13
- The new variant emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now, especially as we are rolling out our immunization program for the most vulnerable people in BC, including many frontline health care workers.
- The Ministry of Health continues to work with other jurisdictions to monitor the developing situation and ensure coordinated, effective and shared efforts to protect people and communities.
- We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.
- Canada has posted a travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until January 6, 2021, and B.C.'s Public Health Office strongly advises that travel out of the province or across health regions should be limited to essential travel only.

Top 10 Question & Answer

1. We only just identified a vaccine for COVID, will the vaccine have the same effect on this new strain?

- So far there is no indication the new strain has any effect on the vaccine - however, tests are ongoing in the UK to be certain.
- All evidence suggests that, while the new variant appears to spread more easily and quickly, it is not causing more severe illness and the vaccine will have the same impact on the new COVID variant.
- We will continue to administer the vaccine as quickly as possible to the people identified as most vulnerable or at-risk in this first phase of our vaccination rollout.

2. What can you tell us about the case? Where does the person live? Why can't you share that information when Ontario has for their cases?

- In order to protect a patient's right to privacy and protect them from potential stigmatization, names and exact locations of COVID-positive patients are kept confidential.
- We can share that they live on Vancouver Island and contact tracers work as quickly as possible to identify and contact all potential exposures.
- They travelled from the UK to B.C. on December 15th and developed symptoms on December 17th and were tested shortly after.
- A small number of close contacts have been identified and the case and all contacts have been isolating, with VIHA is following up with them daily.

3. Are you going to shut down travel from other provinces?

KM+QA – New COVID-19 variant

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4. Will this affect the vaccination rollout?

- No. B.C. will continue to vaccinate as many long-term care home staff and residents, as well as many frontline healthcare workers, as we can and as quickly as we can.
- The new strain only emphasizes the need for all of us to be vigilant and to follow the PHO orders and guidance right now.

5. Was there any way that we could have seen this coming or prepared for this?

- Luckily, most British Columbians are doing the right things already by staying close to home, closing their circle and practicing physical distancing and wearing a mask when in public spaces.
- We have been monitoring the situation in the UK and now potentially South Africa, and fully support Canada's ban on international flights coming into Canada.
- This new variant was to be expected – much like the different influenza strains that we see annually, this type of virus does typically mutate.
- Thankfully, this variant does not appear to cause a more severe illness in people.

- However, it does appear to spread more easily and more quickly, which is why we must continue to do all we can to keep our loved ones and our communities safe by keeping to our immediate households, avoiding non-essential travel and practicing physical distancing.

6. What are you doing to protect people from the new variant?

- The good news is that most British Columbians are already doing the right thing by staying close to home, practicing physical distancing and following PHO guidance and orders.
- Canada has posted a travel ban on all flights arriving from the UK until January 6, 2021, and B.C.'s Public Health Office strongly advises that travel out of the province or across health regions should be limited to essential travel only.

7. Vancouver Island is home to many First Nation communities – is the new case in one of them and even if not, what are you doing to protect Indigenous Elders and communities?

- I can confirm that the new case is not in an Indigenous community.
- Protecting Indigenous Elders and communities from the virus has been a priority since the onset of COVID-19 and we have been working closely with Indigenous leaders to understand what we can do to best support their efforts and protect their communities.
- That now includes prioritizing Indigenous communities in the initial vaccination rollout.

8. You keep saying that schools are safe for kids and that mandatory masks are not necessary – can you confirm that the new case is not a school-aged young person? And even if yes, does the new variant change your policy to

keep schools open through the respiratory season and not making masks mandatory?

- Yes, the person is an adult.
- As we have recently shown through modelling, children continue to transmit the virus at very low rates in comparison to other age groups.
- What is happening in our schools is a reflection of what is happening in our communities and indeed our households and the best thing for people to do to stop this virus is to limit their social interactions, stay close to home and practice physical distancing when in public indoor spaces.

9. Will this new variant mean new restrictions for British Columbians in the new year?

- As the COVID-19 situation and virus evolves, so too will our response to it.
- We will continue to do everything we can to keep people and communities safe and may consider further action to reduce non-essential travel as the situation evolves.

10. Are there any other known cases in other provinces, or the world?

- So far there are only two confirmed cases in Ontario, however BC and the other provinces in Canada are reviewing all the positive tests from the past few weeks and it is likely additional cases will be found.
- But other cases are to be expected. This virus has shown that it doesn't care about provincial borders and that it goes where people go. Other cases are just a matter of time.
- This variant has now been detected in multiple countries beyond the UK, including Denmark, Belgium, Australia and the Netherlands.
- We are also monitoring flights that are incoming from South Africa.

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Health
Provincial Health Office

Statement on first COVID UK variant case in B.C.

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Contact:

COVID Communications Director
Ministry of Health

(250) 858-0555

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Sent: December 27, 2020 12:56:10 PM PST
Attachments: DRAFT.pdf

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Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, 000.1 - Burnaby, 000.2 - Vancouver, 049.0 - Okanagan Falls, 064.0 - Richmond, 076.0 - Surrey, BUSIN_BUSINESS, CCCH_CHINESE, CCFR_FRENCH, CCID_INDIGENOUS, CCPE_PERSIAN, CCSA_SOUTH ASIAN, COVID, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, LMain, MEDIA, MMVAN_MMVAN, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE
No Lead Organization
Headline: Joint statement on first COVID-19 UK variant case in B.C.

This email was auto-generated.

Not Approved
Dec. 27, 2020

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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COVID-19 Communications

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Not Approved
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To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>, Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>, Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>, Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 12:58:03 PM PST
Holding.

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Draft for approval - Fw: DRAFT: Joint statement on first COVID-19 UK variant case in B.C.
Hold for a minute. ^{s.13}

s.13

b
Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
Phone: ^{s.17; s.19}

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

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Sent: December 27, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
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To: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX

Subject: DRAFT: Joint statement on first COVID-19 UK variant case in B.C.

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NR Number: Not Approved

NR Type: Joint Statement

State: Planned

Planned Release Date: December 27, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, 000.1 - Burnaby, 000.2 - Vancouver, 049.0 - Okanagan Falls, 064.0 - Richmond, 076.0 - Surrey, BUSIN_BUSINESS, CCCH_CHINESE, CCFR_FRENCH, CCID_INDIGENOUS, CCPE_PERSIAN, CCSA_SOUTH ASIAN, COVID, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, LMain, MEDIA, MMVAN_MMVAN, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE

No Lead Organization

Headline: Joint statement on first COVID-19 UK variant case in B.C.

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From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:02:43 PM PST
Ok

Sent from my iPad

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JOINT STATEMENT

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"However, studies suggest the COVID-19 variant first identified in the UK can spread more quickly and easily, which is why British Columbians everywhere must continue to be cautious and follow all PHO orders and guidelines, stay close to home, avoid non-essential travel, practice safe, physical distancing and wear a mask when in public indoor spaces.

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Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Vancouver Coastal: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

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<DRAFT.pdf>

FW: FINAL - Fw: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>, Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>, Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>, Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:17:20 PM PST
Attachments: 2020HLTH0068-002147.pdf

Final going now. Thanks for the call, DBH.
Alex will send the link asap.

From: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX <Oriane.Fort@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 27, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FINAL - Fw: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

Thanks Kirsten,

Here's your final, going asap!

Oriane

s.13

From: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX <Oriane.Fort@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Fort, Oriane GCPE:EX
Subject: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.
Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/23507>

News ID: NEWS-23507
NR Number: 2020HLTH0068-002147
NR Type: Joint Statement
State: Planned
Planned Release Date: December 27, 2020 at 1:15 pm
Media Distribution Lists: 000.0 - Victoria, 000.1 - Burnaby, 000.2 - Vancouver, 049.0 - Okanagan Falls, 064.0 - Richmond, 076.0 - Surrey, BUSIN_BUSINESS, CCCH_CHINESE, CCFR_FRENCH, CCID_INDIGENOUS, CCPE_PERSIAN, CCSA_SOUTH ASIAN, COVID, LEGIS_PRESS GALLERY, LMain, MEDIA, MMVAN_MMVAN, PROVI_PROVINCE WIDE
Lead Organization: Ministry of Health
Headline: Joint statement on first COVID-19 U.K. variant case in B.C.

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0068-002147
Dec. 27, 2020

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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Re: For Minister consideration: Zoom interview re UK Variant with Richard

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 28, 2020 12:34:01 PM PST

Hi Kirsten,
Send the statement
Adrian

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 28, 2020, at 11:35 AM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning, Minister –
s.13

I can send him the info below on background, if declining is the preference.

Reporter

Richard Zussman, Reporter
Global TV | BC
richard.zussman@globalnews.ca
250-216-7328

Deadline Monday, December 28, 2020 2:00 PM

Request

I have a few questions that may be answerable and may not be:

- 1) How did the person get from YVR to Vancouver Island?
- 2) How high risk are the close contacts?
- 3) Is there any fear of community spread linked to the variant? As in could it have spread on the flight or from these close contacts if the originator was isolating.

Recommendation: provide on background in lieu of interview

- While we are unable to comment on that level of detail because of patient privacy, I can confirm that:
 - a small number of close contacts are isolating and that the individual followed quarantine rules;
 - public health officials are following up with them on a daily basis; and
 - any passengers on a domestic flight with a confirmed COVID-19 case should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- While everything is being done to prevent spread to other people in the community, we do expect to see more cases of this variant in B.C. in the coming weeks, just as other jurisdictions are seeing.
- That's why it's more important than ever for British Columbians to stay local, avoid all non-essential travel and use our layers of protection to reduce the potential for a surge in new cases and keep our communities and loved ones safe.
- It's also very important to note that there is no evidence to suggest the Health Canada-approved vaccines will be any less effective against the new variant.

Re: For MO/DMO Review: HLTH Media Request: COVID: vaccine rollout over holiday weekend

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
To: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: December 29, 2020 11:55:19 AM PST

We will be answering these questions at 3

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 29, 2020, at 11:24 AM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi folks, before I run through PHO, wondering if you have input considering^{s.13} or prefer a different approach?

Reporter

Denise Ryan, Reporter
Vancouver Sun
dryan@postmedia.com
^{s.22}

Deadline Tuesday, December 29, 2020 3:00 PM

Request

How many clinics were held throughout the province and where?
How many were vaccinated?
What age groups/categories did those receiving vaccinations fall into?
What challenges (delays, hangups?) did you run into?
How much vaccine is currently available and what is the rollout going to look like over the next few days/New Years holiday etc.
What is the ministry's response to the BCNU's assertion yesterday that administrators had been "jumping the queue".

Recommendation: provide below on background, based largely on yesterday's approved response:

Hello and good morning, Denise,

We'll have updated vaccination figures available with today's media avail with Minister Dix and Dr. Henry, please stay tuned for data then.

Note we are unable to provide the locations of vaccine clinics, however health authorities throughout the province held vaccination clinics last week, with limited clinics on Boxing Day, ramping up over the weekend and, returning to full capacity on Tuesday. With the statutory holidays and the logistics involved in operating these clinics, clinics were closed on Christmas day to give healthcare staff a much-needed, albeit short, break over the holidays.

As you may be aware, the first limited round of vaccinations began in December 2020, with health care workers who work in long-term care homes and on the frontlines of COVID-19 response in acute care among the first to receive the vaccine. Vaccines will continue arriving each week in B.C. in increasing quantities, with targeted deployment for people in additional priority groups. For more information on priority groups, and planned rollout, please see:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/bcs-plan-for-vaccine-distribution>

It is important to note that some key outbreak response members were also immunized, particularly ones who are part of response teams that go into long-term care to help manage outbreaks.