

Shust, Susan D HLTH:EX

From: Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX
Sent: November 17, 2020 1:02 PM
To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX
Subject: COVID-19 - Race Based data Minister Dix requests

Expires: January 6, 2021 12:00 AM

Reporter

Zahra Premji, Reporter
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Deadline Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:00 PM

Request

We are looking for Minister Dix to please respond to the question about why no race based data? We understand the idea of not singling out any minority communities and fear of targeting them but if the South Asian community themselves are telling us they want to see the numbers and it'll be more affective then why not? Could this change be coming now that you're hearing from so many in the community saying please give us the numbers so our community understands and makes decisions based on this?

I know Minister Dix mentioned yesterday how the ads have come out in different languages etc and yes that's been helpful but data would tell the communities being so heavily impacted the direct message - so we are looking for an explanation on this and if we could be seeing a change to come?

Reporter:

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I understand a new case report came out on Nov 6 : <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/2019-nCoV-case-report-form-en.pdf>

This includes a template – where race is asked about.

So – is BC using this – if not – why not? I'm unclear if there's some sort of software or technology that needs to be updated and how much work that is. Or is this about to be put in place?

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From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Sent: November 17, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: for sign off: race based data

Note the additional contact tracing capacity with the FNHA. Otherwise okay

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 17, 2020, at 3:14 PM, Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX <Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for our public health system and we are always looking at ways we can use additional data to inform how we support people who are most vulnerable to severe illness. We recently hired hundreds of new contact tracers to prepare for increasing transmission in the fall and winter, but the rapid transmission surge in recent weeks – and the high number of contacts for some people who test positive – is stretching our capacity.

Transitioning our systems to accommodate the additional data collection in the new federal form would create logistical challenges and require developing protocols to ensure the responsible use of this kind of the new information – and ultimately is not feasible right now. We continue working with our national counterparts to move towards more race-based data collection in B.C., and support other methods, including public engagement and surveys, to collect disaggregated data to help determine the impact on different populations – but our primary resources have to be directed to managing the pandemic at this time. We urge all British Columbians to reduce their social contacts outside of work and school so we can bend the curve down again.

J M P

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