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From: Dunn, Kathleen (PHAC/ASPC) <kathleen.dunn@canada.ca>
Sent: February 1, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Clement Chris (NHQ-AC)
Subject: Measures to control new SARS-CoV-2 variants

Chris,

Following the discussion this morning, reinforcing the importance of strict adherence to recommended IPC practices (in the workplace) and Public Health measures in the community (outside of work) are the key messages. Not recommending anything new – but thinking through best approach to addressing gaps / non-compliance and potential impact with emergence of variants (increased transmissibility).

Publication of interest, that summarizes the issue and recommended measures.

Public health actions to control new SARS-CoV-2 variants

[https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(21\)00087-8?rss=yes](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(21)00087-8?rss=yes)

There are several hypotheses about the underlying cause of increased transmissibility such as
(1) the variant may lead to an infected person producing more virus (increased viral load),
(2) it may be more likely to establish infection upon contact (decreased infectious dose), and/or
(3) it may prolong the period of infectiousness.

Control measures need to be centered around reducing community transmission.

While previously identified mitigation measures will continue to apply to the new variant, some measures may need to be tightened and gaps in mitigation measures need to be addressed.