



Premier of Saskatchewan

Legislative Building
Regina Canada S4S 0B3

March 2, 2021

Mark Friesen, Founder & CEO
Forum for Canadian Sovereignty
(info@ffcs.info)

Dear Mr. Friesen:

Thank you for your email of January 24, 2021, regarding COVID-19 and government restrictions.

COVID-19 remains a public health risk in Saskatchewan, despite a recent decline in the number of cases and hospitalizations. We continue to urge everyone in the province to follow Public Health Orders and take the necessary precautions to control the spread of the virus.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our government has taken action based on the expert advice provided by the province's Chief Medical Officer and officials at the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Our government has worked to strike the right balance between protecting public health, while allowing people as much freedom as possible to work and socialize. While significant restrictions remain in place for now, Saskatchewan has managed to keep more businesses open than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

We understand the frustration people are feeling with the restrictions on public gatherings. As our vaccination campaign gathers momentum, and the number of COVID-19 cases continue to drop, the restrictions will be relaxed and life will begin to return to normal.

You raised a number of points about testing.

My understanding is that around the world, the standard to detect the COVID-19 virus is the nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT). The reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test, a type of NAAT, is the most sensitive and specific test available to detect the virus. These tests are considered diagnostic, particularly for symptomatic individuals.

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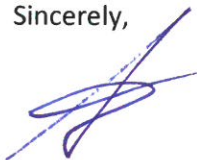
Antigen testing is also widely available in the form of rapid point of care tests, which are less sensitive, but more convenient at the point of care. If an individual tests positive on an antigen test, the testing protocol in Saskatchewan requires that a PCR test be conducted to confirm the positive result. Antigen tests can be used to rule out infection in those who are asymptomatic.

You also discussed therapies in your letter.

Our government is committed to ensuring that patients are provided with the best drug therapy for treatment of COVID-19 based on available clinical evidence. The evidence to support the beneficial effects of ivermectin for prevention or treatment of COVID-19 is inconclusive. In addition, there are potential adverse effects that can be related to treatment with ivermectin. More information on drugs and vaccines for COVID-19 is available online at: www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/about.html.

Public health officials continue to assess the national and provincial public health risks associated with COVID-19, based on the best available evidence. We are providing frequent updates to the public through our website at www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19, news releases, social media, and news conferences. The website provides details on our vaccine strategy and guidance on infection prevention, self-isolation/self-monitoring, mass gatherings, and travel.

Sincerely,



Scott Moe
Premier

cc: Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Health

