

DEC 18 2023



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

President

Présidente

Mr. John Williamson, M.P.
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Williamson:

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is pleased to provide electronically, in both official languages, the progress report requested by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts pursuant to the Committee's Eighth Report on Pandemic Preparedness, Surveillance, and Border Control Measures of February 2022.

Recommendation 8:

That the Public Health Agency of Canada provide the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts with progress reports regarding the development and implementation of emergency plans for administering mandatory quarantine orders for future disease outbreaks, as follows: 31 December 2021; 31 December 2022; and 31 December 2023 or 18 months after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic (whichever comes first).

PHAC continues to develop a foundational Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Manual (referred to as a "Quality Manual" in previous progress reports) that will document the operational framework necessary to facilitate future operational program delivery in support of *Quarantine Act* measures. The C&E Manual will support current program activities and will also support the administration and enforcement of future mandatory quarantines, should they be required.

The C&E Manual will consist of 28 policies and standard operating procedures related to all aspects of a robust and consistent compliance and enforcement program. It will serve as a foundational document for future emergency plans to implement and administer a compliance framework for a national quarantine program.

.../2

The C&E Manual will:

- act as a how-to document of the organization's operational processes;
- support on-going improvements of the program;
- support evidence gathering in response to internal and external audits; and
- provide an operational framework and tools for current operational activities and future public health events.

With the objective of enhancing preparedness and response capacity for future public health emergencies and pandemics, PHAC, through a series of internal exercises, reviewed the lessons learned from the processes stood up to promote, verify, and enforce compliance with the border measures in place. Information from these exercises has helped to shape the development of the C&E Manual and contributes to a better understanding of the Agency's areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

The Agency is on track to complete a first draft of the C&E Manual before the end of 2023, with internal stakeholder engagement and review to follow in early 2024.

PHAC remains on track to fulfill this commitment within 18 months of the end of the pandemic.

We trust that the Committee finds this useful for their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Jeffrey', written in a cursive style.

Heather Jeffrey