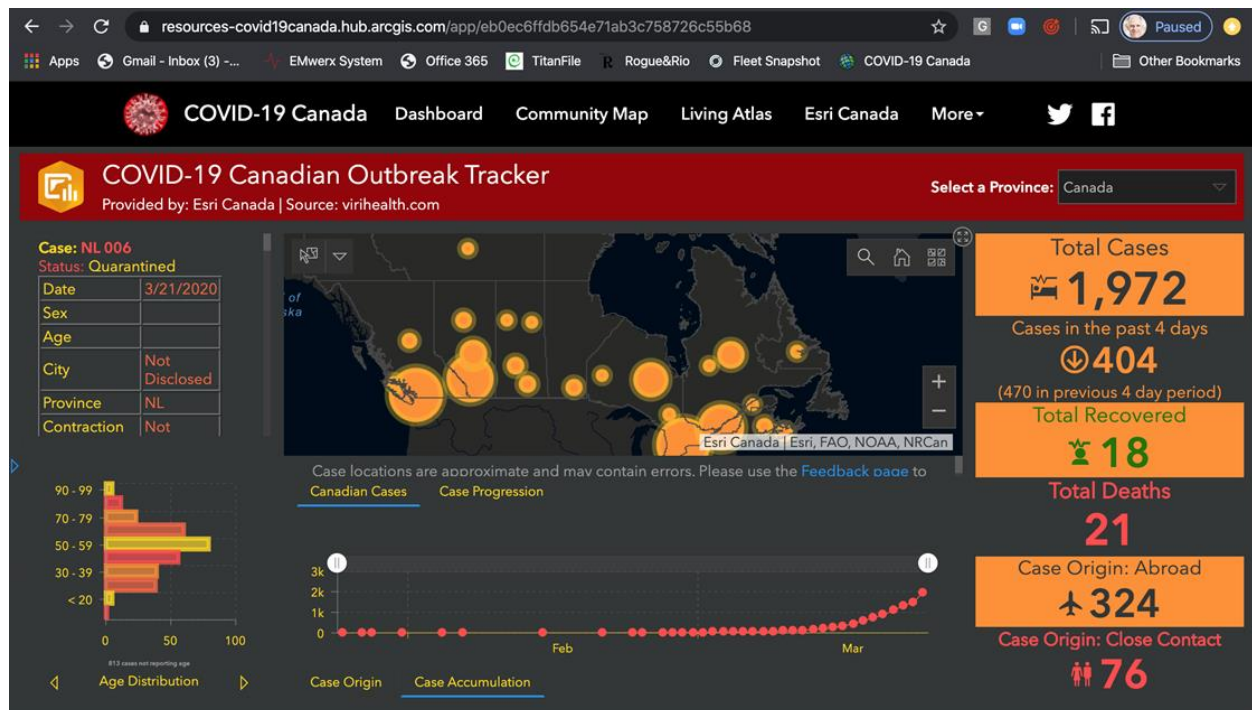


CoVID-19 UPDATE - Recommendations for Remote Work Camps or Vessels

March 23, 2020

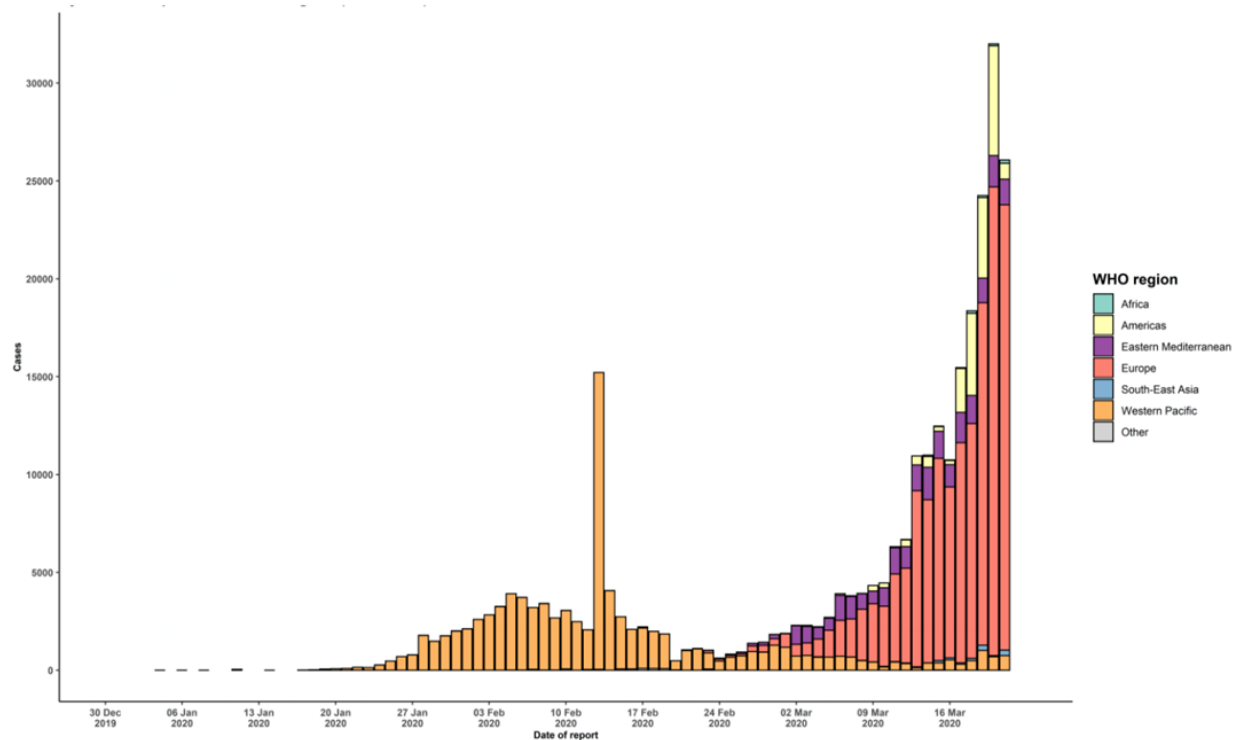
The Canadian CoVID-19 strategy has changed or is changing from the initial identify each case, contact trace and contain, to responding to community spread. Travel questions that identified virus 'vectors' (people with the virus) coming into Canada are becoming less useful every day. Borders are closed, and States of Emergency have been declared in most provinces. That increases screening and enforcement of distancing and isolation. But at the same time actual human behavior change and adherence to those new, and for most of us unprecedented, rules is variable – the virus continues to spread. I think and hope that we will be much different (better off) than the virus explosion in Italy and likely in the USA.

The following 2 graphics tell the story:



Note: website URL in above line. Also numbers may be affected by patchy data reporting on weekend. We are just at the beginning of the exponential growth curve seen everywhere else.

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 21 March 2020



Note that the apparent decrease in number of cases may be due to a reporting bias during the weekend.

The figure above shows the exponential increase of cases in the EU in the Americas.

These trends make the screening of workers on ships, work sites or camps more challenging, especially if they are in remote places for days or weeks at a time. Travel was an easy yes/no question. It is getting more difficult to know if workers have been unwittingly exposed to a virus carrier because of proximity to airborne virus or touching virus surfaces and then their faces. Furthermore, we are relying on workers, with various levels of comprehension about the virus and its transmission to answer basic but really important questions. And there is a strong desire to earn income that can challenge honesty or result in minimizing mild viral symptoms. Also men seem to be generally less aware of their health status and medical history than women.

Therefore, the only reliable strategy that we can think of is recommending for crews who will be sharing common spaces for many days or weeks in remote places to self-isolate X 14 days prior to embarking or going to work site. The 'self' isolation is a potential problem because there is a broad interpretation of what that means, including periods of possible contamination. During that 14 days, one or more workers might start developing symptoms and will need to be taken off the coming crew change and recover from their illness. Replacements



may be needed. Crew cannot get closer than 2 metres during the 14 days and must clean everything touchable regularly. The isolation will need to be well explained and evidence of comprehension clear.

If this strategy is not followed and a crew member gets sick while out at sea, they may do fine. But some get more severe infections and may require oxygen therapy that will deplete O2 tanks in a few hours. Some will require artificial ventilation in the Intensive Care Unit. Men, those who are older (> 60 y) and those with chronic health problems are at higher risk.

In the coming days and weeks worker numbers will decrease when people are exposed or get sick. Those who recover will likely be immune to CoVID-19 BUT the virus mutates and authorities think that the 'virus' is not one type but a family of similar but slightly different mutants. That makes predicting the future more difficult but also finding an effective vaccine extra challenging.

Summary:

It is still early days in Canada with the west more affected than the east but it is coming.

- Viral management is shifting from containment to reducing the impact on the health systems by enforced distancing (public gathering closures) and isolation – this may be required for weeks – months.
- 14 day worker pre-deployment isolation and close monitoring for and removal of symptomatic workers/replacement may be the only way to prevent infection on work sites – on land or sea.
- Obsessive cleaning of everything touchable must occur several times/day. Consideration to increasing cleaning staff is strongly encouraged.
- All workers must understand the importance of these strategies. The virus does not negotiate or respect hierarchies.
- These are extreme recommendations for extreme times. Normal is in the past.

We would be pleased to try and answer questions and help you keep your business operating if possible.

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