

**Telephone Town Hall
Cargill-Alberta Government**

Audience: Cargill employees

April 18, 2020

2:30PM

On the call:

Dr Jason Copping, Minister of Labour and Immigration

Andre Tremblay, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

John Nash, Cargill

Andrea --- Cargill

Dr Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer, Alberta

Dr. Brent Friesen, AHS

Dr. Hiu, AHS

Full Transcript of Cargill-Govt Telephone Townhall (Auto-generated)

00:27

And I'd also like to um

00:29

welcome Andre Trouble a deputy minister of agriculture and forestry who is with us today So thank you all so much for being here And I will now pass it over to the honorable Minister Devon duration to provide some opening comments

00:44

Well thank you Uh everyone for taking the time to be on the call today Uh and this is a very important town hall meeting So I I do appreciate your time And I know your schedules and priorities have changed drastically in the last few weeks but your time and involvement today is greatly appreciated Now the purpose of this call is to provide everyone with information on what's being done to manage the covert pandemic within High River and Cargill into allow employees to directly ask questions on the work being done to keep their worksite Your works a safe

01:18

to everyone that the front line worker where they're being health food any essential services across the province Thank you You are heroes and you are keeping Elberton safe

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Your continued work is crucial to insure all Albertans and Canadians have a steady consistent supply of beef on store shelves during this pandemic. Having said that, your health and safety is a critical priority to the government of Alberta. Up and Alberta Health Services we are facing extraordinary circumstances with respect to COVID-19. Our government is doing everything possible to slow the spread of the pandemic and protect Albertans by continuing to implement aggressive public health measures province wide as a minister responsible for food security and open it up. I want to take a moment to share with you what our government along with our partners are doing to insure you can be safe in your work environment and to ensure safe high quality Alberta meat is available to feed out Alberta's Canadians and people around the world.

02:19

Your beef processing facility is a major employer in your area and a significant supplier of beef for Alberta and Western Canada.

02:28

Everyone is susceptible to COVID-19 with High River experiencing a relative high number of confirmed cases. We want you to be confident that we take your and every Albertan's health and safety very seriously. And you know please that Dr. Dean Hinshaw, our chief medical officer of health, covered as top Doc along with Dr. Hugh and Dr. Freezing arguing with us today to discuss measures taken already and to directly take questions from you.

02:59

Now there has been misinformation floating around and we want you to have the opportunity to hear directly from the experts. I want you to know that the Alberta and federal governments are working closely with Cargill worker representatives, the town of High River, Alberta Health Services and Alberta as chief medical officer of health to keep workers safe. I miss this local break of COVID-19.

03:23

That's why Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has been working with our partners H.S. and to see if I can protect the health and safety of workers while insuring a stable food supply in Alberta.

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Together we established a business resumption protocol for provincially or federally licensed food processing facilities. You know, Berda. This protocol formalizes the cooperated approach used among the organizations to streamline the process while outlining the roles and responsibilities of a culture and 43 H.S.N.C.F.I. As we work to keep our food supply strong. Now this work started over three weeks ago. How many meats north of Calgary had an early case of COVID-19?

04:08

and from that day we have Obviously we're concerned about worker safety and developed this protocol over three weeks ago and we were concerned about worker safety then and we will be tomorrow

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C f I now is using it in other provinces and is linking to other provincial health authorities to develop their own business Resumption Protocol 's However Albert it was the first

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The protocol is designed to further protect the health and safety of employees and the public by minimizing disruptions in the food supply and insurance operations can safely resumed as quickly as possible I am confident that cargo has taken all appropriate measures and has fully cooperated with Alberta Health Services to ensure the health and safety of stuff And I will look to my fellow colleagues here today to speak to that in more detail However insured everything that needs to be done both to keep people safe and the food supply maintained is being done

05:06

to you and everyone working at Cargill today who are still hard at work I want you to know you are providing an essential service too well Burtons and that we are all very appreciative of what you do

05:17

I thank you for keeping Albert instead and their food supply chain strong during this global covert pandemic

05:24

Thank you I'd like to introduce my colleague Jason Copy Minister of Labor and Immigration to say a few words And afterwards we will hear from Dr Deana Hinshaw Albertus Chief Medical officer of health and finally management from cargo

05:40

Thank you Minister Situation Just a reminder to press star three to get your questions into the cue Go ahead Minister Copy when you're ready

05:48

Thank you And hello everyone And thanks for taking the time out of your day to join us for the something

05:57

getting

05:58

everyone

06:00

This call is to communicate what's being done to manage pandemic

06:04

in the community and at the work site as well as answer questions that you may have

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But I want to speak to you about today. Is the about the work being done by my department from a health and safety standpoint

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I know these are challenging times and I want you to know that our government is doing everything we can to help over. True with this pandemic

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we're going through and unprecedented in time and I want you to know that you were all the central and extremely important to helping a Burton's true this public health crisis

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But most of all your health and safety is important and we want to ensure that you were aware of the steps being taken to keep you healthy

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As you'll hear through our session Occupational health and safety I'll buy the health Services and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are taking steps to protect to while at work

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I want you to know that complaints received by my department are taken seriously and inspected by occupational health and safety

06:58

I received a letter regarding worker safety concerns at your plant last week and we treated this as a formal complaint

07:05

an occupational health and safety officer conducting inspection of the plant I found that the employer is taking the reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety and welfare of employees at the site as well as those in the vicinity

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At the time of the inspection the company had implemented a number of safety measures including temperature testing enhanced cleaning and sanitizing prohibiting visitors

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adopting physical distancing where possible and installing plastic dividers as well as offering staggered breaks and shipped electability

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These plans and processes are in place to ensure safe operation and be processing plants like yours And to protect Hubbard is food supply chain

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And to insure that these measures are followed my department will continue to effect inspections when complaints are made

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and we'll make adjustments consistent with the advice from a bird is chief medical officer

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When necessary to insure Albertus work firs is protected healthy and see

08:03

As I said before our government and my ministry takes workplace health

08:06

and sit and safety very seriously

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Keeping Albertans healthy is our top priority as well as continuing to deliver critical service Robert

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we are confident in the process and controls in place where minimize the risk

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and help ensure the safety of employees

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The once again thank you for all the work that you do and thank you for taking the time out of your Saturday to join us And I would like to turn it over to Dr Insured

08:32

Thank you Minister copying and just a reminder to press star three to get your questions into the Q Go ahead Dr Angela

08:41

thank you

08:41

very much and thank you for the opportunity to be part of this town hall today I want to take a quick moment uh to introduce my colleagues doctors Yahoo and Dr Brent Freezing They are Alberta Health Services Medical officers of health who work in the Calgary Zone And they're joining us over the phone to help answer questions that you might have They're leading the local outbreak response to the situation

09:02

I really trust my local colleagues and their expertise and we have to work together across the province to control the spread of Kogut 19 So my local medical officer of health colleagues or the arms and legs on the grounds of Public health Response

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Alberta Health Services has put together a dedicated outbreak response team to address the so break and try to prevent further infections at any locations where transmission is occurring And doctor who and Dr Freezing are the leads of this team

09:28

Let me first

09:29

say that I know there is a lot of concern in the communities where you live and work about the outbreak linked to the high river Cargill plants I'm taking the situation very seriously

09:39

As you know As of yesterday there were 358 cases linked to this outbreak That's not just in the plant but involving multiple connected households

09:49

some of these

09:49

households or in surrounding communities such as Calgary and okay jokes and the information that I've received with respect to the outbreak Investigations suggest that cases are primarily linked to spread and have sold at this time

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As you may know covered

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19 is a very challenging infection to control because the early sicknesses so mild making it easy to spread from person to person In that stage of course as you also know some people then go on to have severe illness which is what we want to avoid and why we were working so hard to prevent the spread

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in public health Our primary job is to protect the public from health risks including infection

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Actions to prevent that spread need to happen anywhere There is risk including in homes vehicles and workplaces

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Well there has been a lot of effort focused on preventing spread of infection on the work site of Cargill and High River It has become clear that car pooling and household transmission are risk areas that we need to address

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the local public health team is working hard to ensure that all supports that are needed in all settings are put in place to prevent risk to people in all of those settings

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In addition because we know that in some cases virus spread can happen before symptoms start we're going to be offering testing to all workers whether or not they have symptoms as a voluntary additional measure to detect infection

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I also want to take this opportunity to reiterate that we all have a responsibility to prevent the spread of infection

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This includes employers

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It includes employees and all members of the public and all the settings that we work live and playing

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We can prevent further spread by working together and continuing to follow public health guidance

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And if any of us experience any symptoms of coded 19 including fever cough runny nose sore throat or shortness of breath we must self isolate immediately

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and complete an online self self assessment to be referred to an appointment for testing

11:51

I want to thank you

11:52

again for joining this call I'm really happy to be here and happy to take any of your questions

11:59

Thank you very much Dr Intra and a reminder to press Star three to get your questions into the Q I would now like to ask John Nash to go ahead and provide some opening remarks from cargo

12:12

Good afternoon everyone And and thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you today uh to start out I guess I would just like to say how grateful I am to uh all of our people who work so hard

12:24

every single day to put food on on tables for for 100 Canadians Um the work that you do is so important and so appreciated on many many levels I'd also like to share my appreciation for the community of Five River Uh and the province of Alberta we've had a long standing relationship Uh and I certainly appreciate all the help that you provided us Uh as we work through this really challenging situation

12:50

um I also like to thank the union for the work that they do um in partnership with us to take care of our people and have a thriving business Um we have a long relationship and I certainly appreciate that

13:02

um obviously the the community of of High River is especially hard hit at this point and and my heart goes out to all the people in the community who have been impacted by this really really terrible um outbreak

13:17

Um please know that we were doing everything we can possibly do to keep our people safe a while providing wholesome food at the Canadians Um the health and safety of our people is always the first priority of in our business

13:31

Ah you've heard about the many different ah processes that we've put into place um to help insure your health and safety And certainly I'm willing to answer any questions I can about those today Um but the most important message I think that I want to make sure that you know and is that we absolutely will not operate the facility if we cannot do it safely or if we cannot meet the food safety quality standards that we have in place uh we will never sacrifice the well being of our people uh to do that Um So thank you very much for taking the time out of your day for this discussion Um and I would uh now love to turn it over to my colleague

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Andrea

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Lutece for her comments

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Thank you very much John and a reminder to press star three to get your questions into the cue Go ahead Andrea When you're ready

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Thanks

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I am absolutely on B E quality and regulars former manager Hard however um as a lot of them I know me I worked cargo for the last five years and that's the majority of my life living in salary So this is a home It affected my coworker my neighbor and my family

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I'm I'm certainly It's a challenging time for all of us to deal with

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with my job in G Every day that it comes to work different challenges at the plant said I'm sure a lot of your where

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But see he always has to be my name and my main tires

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It's not a humor

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of our top So it the personal safety coworkers

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the safety of

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depend on a problem

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So

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everything that we're doing

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it from unloading cattle for shipping around me

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and every single says that we have and a really proud to work at a company that value so highly Um like John Nash said it really our priority is making sure that you have a E for everybody at work All of the individual open for our product

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We're also seeing a lot of uncertainty right now in all the rest of my life

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education can really count on being able to purchase food every time they go to the grocery store

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Higher we have Billy I'm sure you can continue to count on do that

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I know that He's very easy to feel like coming to work every day Your job Just something Do you punch in and out and you have Ah

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but would you be somewhat more than that Every day you're providing your own family your neighbors

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and for the day that are never knows that can purchase for themselves

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What we're doing is really important critical work people

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myself Personally I've always found Shannon meals gonna really important way for people together

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Weather has been holiday

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family meal after a long day

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on Saturday and plant working multiple Saturdays Um right now at dinner with friends over a time

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around Sure he is providing a lot of great memories

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All it was comfort

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It's a way that I feel unified Ah conversation and sure something tasty with the people I care about

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Find a shared such a positive

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So what we're doing is insurance may still have been on the table job

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they still have to share

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Hey this is so important right now where a lot of us are looking to me in a sense of normalcy at home

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if we weren't able to have another table going to make that even more challenging shuffle

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with everything going on around at all certain that we have I want to so grateful for all of the forward So they go over all of you that are here or working side by side everything that everyone is doing every day

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It's not easy but it's so important

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Ah about all of really easy to keep focusing on keeping each other safe our

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and at home and keeping Canadian family base by continuing to provide food that we make out of Philly

18:03

So I've done one say thank you or joining it on call from what I need to share my perspective with you guys Um really looking forward to hearing somebody's got questions that come up

18:17

Thank you very much Andrew And thank you to all this because you've provided some opening comments and who are here to answer all of your questions A reminder to please press star three to get your questions into the Q And with that we are going to start our lives Uh Q n A And the first question we have is from Chin And this is a question from Dr Hinshaw and this is lives to go head Shan when you're ready

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Hi Uh my name is Jen Uh my question is ah as I know so much Employees have already causes that

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So uh my question is is the the common of copy apart

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I kn ju

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Elvis their situation So I I mean ah he does this guy the okay to place Bill that uh temporarily off or something

19:11

Go ahead Doctor

19:13

So thanks And um so it sounds like there's maybe a couple of parts to that question If I understand correctly meant one is maybe what are we doing to help people who are infected with the virus who for their their health supports But it sounds like maybe there's a second question about what we're doing to help people from a income Um and finance perspective as well So I'll take that first part of the question with respect to health side Uh and with ah any new diagnosis And somebody does have covert 19 and they have a positive lab test a public health teams do reach out to them and make sure that they have all the information they need about ah what's expected of them how to stay safe how to prevent spreads to others And in addition to that there is I could questions about whether or not they've been in close contact with people uh and making sure that there's a way of connecting with those people so that they know that they've been exposed and can safely isolate as well

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then with respect to the care of that person Most people who get infected and have covered 19 have a relatively mild illness that uh can be people can stay home and and recover from it without meeting medical care Uh but we do have a system in place where if someone um does needs more care than we have someone reaching out to people who have infection

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every couple of days just to check in see how they're doing and make sure that they're still doing okay If they do need additional care then they can be referred for that There's also a research study that just started in the province last week So anyone who is diagnosed with Covert 19 has an opportunity to be on medication for covert 19 And so when someone's diagnose when they find out about that then they're asked if they're interested in participating in this medication study Uh and if they're interested then they would be put in touch with the researchers uh to be um made uh to have the medication made available to them and then with respect to the financial supports I'm not sure if that some question that ah one of the other ministers on the line might answer I I know in general terms that there are financial supports available Ah but I'll maybe

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to see if if we don't have the details on that we can certainly get back to you afterwards because that might be more question for community and social services So uh all I can say is there absolutely are supports available and the details of how to apply We can make available after the

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call

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Thank you Dr Hang on

21:55

Sorry Go ahead talking

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I can tell you that we we absolutely uh offer 80 hours of of code would pay for anyone who was impacted by this

22:07

Thank you John Uh the next question is from Cindy And this is a question for John with cargo Um how is office staff safety being handled

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Go ahead John

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Yeah Thank you for the question Yeah Office staff state be certainly we we're We're doing all the same controls in our offices as we are uh in in the plants I mean it was really important that we are uh working through enhanced screening Uh do temperature testing uh social distancing All the same things that we're asking of our plant employees to do Uh we're doing the offices

22:45

Thank you John And thank you Cindy for the question The next question we have is a live question from John And this is a question for Dr Hinshaw Go ahead John When you're ready

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and just a reminder to a new

23:01

good afternoon Can you hear me

23:04

Yes Go ahead John

23:06

Uh my question was regarding clothing There's a lot of talk about the virus being on your

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skin and not touching your face But I was just wondering if clothing actually can harbor the virus as well And whether that should be addressed

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when you basically arrives home after Work day or

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um and I just don't want to make sure I get any of my family or anybody around me you know because I'm wearing clothing from work

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So good question Uh thanks John It's Dr Hinshaw here so

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we know that's

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coverage can survive on different services for different lengths of time And so for example on the surface like cardboard which might be more or less And now I guess to fabric uh can survive for about a day So if you are going home certainly you could change your clothes immediately That that would certainly mitigate any risk of potentially bringing it home But what I do want to emphasize is that I with the measures in place of the plants ago would be that there would be no um virus that's being in the environment at the plant So I think while certainly a risk mitigation measures that anyone could take like if you go shopping or if you uh go to the hardware store if you're out in public where there are other people um coming home and changing clothes after being in that in that other place would be a risk mitigation measure that would insure that there was no virus on clothing Uh but I don't want to give the impression that I think that the work sites in Cargill is a sites that has a lot of virus in the environments I don't believe that to be the case Uh but again I think a certainly a medication measure that anyone could take after leaving the house would be that change of clothing Uh and that would be an additional their protection

24:59

Thank you John for your question and a reminder to press star three to get your questions into the Q And the next question we have is also live And it's from Peter And this is a question for Dr Hinshaw Go ahead Peter when you're ready

25:12

Good afternoon Um my I guess actually two questions uh one of them is the uh perception that we have been singled out in the six o'clock news from Doc range out yesterday

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and portraying and ever a lot of people believing that we have about 358 cases

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What's your um reply to that And but the second part of that question is what's the real number of uh covert The confirms and the cargo facility is so

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so on the first

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question I apologize Ah that that number has caused a lot of concern Um what I tried to say in my remarks yesterday but I know that they were not clear because I've heard lots of feedback that that the number that I gave was not understood Um what I tried to say was that that number is the number that's associated with multiple households And so Ah just in terms of of how this outbreak was originally set up uh we were notified at the ministry of of this um cluster of cases that seemed to be links to many household some of which had people working at the Cargill plant some of which had uh people working at different long term care facilities where there were outbreaks of coded Uh and so the decision was made to start up an outbreak Ah investigation that wasn't focused on the Cargill plants but rather focused on these households that had multiple different exposures But that has unfortunately cause some confusion Uh because the numbers than aren't just about Cargill but there about a bigger group of people Uh and so the the 358 number in my remarks yesterday I tried to say this number is about households in Calgary Okay jokes and high river that seemed to have some uh common connection Uh but clearly I did not um do a good job of making that Ah well understood So I will commit on Monday and my media remarks to making that clear

27:21

The second piece about how many cases are actually linked directly to the plants I would look to my colleagues at showing the calories though and so I don't know a doctor who Doctor freezing if you would be able to give us the the number I know that's been work that's underway to pull apart that bigger number to make sure that we have the different components including the specific cargo number

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Talk to your doctor

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Go ahead Talk Talk to who Here Um maybe I'll speak to this uh So um when there were 30 35 cases associated with the entire outbreak other approximately two ended of or so places ah associated with uh people who are employees or contractors The class itself

28:06

um just sort of re emphasize the things that you know has been saying You know I do think that you know right now the uh the risk of transmission from the plants itself Is this

fight low Ah you know we do think that you know hard pulling maybe uh still a a source of some risk and so definitely encourage Uh ah You know mitigation measures there And uh you know we're working with the car deal to to get some of those done but yeah the lines terrible was seeing an increasing number of cases is within the household That's where uh a lot of action will be taken very very soon

28:37

Thank you

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Thank you Dr Who And thank you Peter for your question The next is a red question And this is for a minister copying If circumstances change Does occupational health and safety stay involved Go ahead Minister

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Thank you The the short answer is yes Uh guidelines may change over time or directions from the uh doctor in child Chief Medical officer

29:00

Ah So and if we receive a uh do complain Ah then we aren't aren't Inspectors will come in and and perform another inspection Uh and and doing all this we ask employees employers and And you need to work together during these challenging times to to work through this

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sinking minister And a reminder to please press star three to get your question into the Q And the next question is a live one as well from John And this is a question for Dr Hinshaw Go ahead John When you're ready

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Yeah You know uh I'm calling to question one from differential and one from uh uh sort of John Nash One is from the potential

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definite advice

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Uh we have two kinds of uh imposed TV asymptomatic an asymptomatic one

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Can you show that all employees working cause the rest now that don't have symptoms

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Our uh negative car years You know

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that uh we should That's every employees from carbon

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Ah wonderful e It's It's not just a woman telling me that uh and those who wants to get tested should be tested because we need to be state each and every one of the guys That should be safe So we need to pay our employees from stop to both on if

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that's possible

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Informix for John Nice

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Well what are you going

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to do Because you can call in of a comedy in h R And no one is answering us Drop pose

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call us But we heard nothing from them

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because uh

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most of our employees including me it's working from weekly politically salary

30:42

Oh

30:43

what happened is my wife

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is that the work from six I'm doing now is paid He only received 50 bucks on his salary

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That's all

30:56

Thank you for those questions And I'm going to go first to Dr Hinshaw to ask your first question And then I'll ask John to ask your uh and to your second question and if anyone else is an additional comment

31:07

Thanks

31:07

John So uh uh take your points That's uh the testing You know I appreciate that Your advocating for testing of everyone in the plant whether or not they're willing to consent the the challenge that we come in to when we test people who have no symptoms is that the tests that we do will only tell us if that person has the virus at that moment in time detectable in their throats or their nose depending on the type of swap we do

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What we know is that if someone is

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exposed to the virus it can take up to two weeks for them to get symptoms to get sick from the virus And if they are tested at any given point in that 14 day period Um

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even if

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they're what we call incubating So they've been exposed and they're going to go on to get sick they could test negative at a certain point Uh and then a few days later they might get sick or they might test positive later on And so the the work that we do to test people who have symptoms is the most important And so the critical control measure in this plans is to make sure that if anyone is sick that they are not on site at the plants that they're staying home Uh and if they do have symptoms we would strongly recommend that they be

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tested Even if someone has symptoms though they don't have to

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be tested They just have to stay home for 10 days from the start of their symptoms or until their symptoms get better which ever is longer So Ah the the

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challenge and the reason why I wouldn't recommend required to testing for everyone in the plant is that the reason for doing

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it is to give us a snapshot of what's happening right now on the ground But it's not a guarantee or uh 100%

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kind of clearance with a negative test results And so that's why this is just one more addition to all the outbreak measures because the outbreak measures that are in place prevent transmission

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And so I again it's It's a bit of a tricky thing because what would be nice as if we had a way to do one test that would tell us for sure whether or not someone was incubating But we don't have that kind of test Unfortunately and with the test that we do have we don't want to disadvantage someone who has no symptoms over and above what we would be requiring of someone who does have symptoms and actually be at higher risk of transmitting Uh so this is a voluntary offering But we do hope that people will take advantage of it and it will help us get a better sense of the current situation in the plants Maybe one final thing all at is But we also know that um when people do get sick with coverage they can have virus that uh can

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be found with those know slobbs uh for some weeks after they get sick But much of that virus when it's weeks and weeks after they they've

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recovered from the illness is actually

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dead virus that their body is just getting rid

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of So one of the other

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reasons that it's challenging and for testing people with no symptoms is it Someone may have gotten sick weeks ago and be recovered and the virus that we detect is actually dead virus

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We would still require

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that we have no way of telling whether or not it's dead or live virus So we would still require them to stay home if we did get a positive test

34:28

result But those are all the

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reasons that making it mandatory Um it's it's not a perfect test It's just one more piece of our response

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Thank you Dr Handle And John did you want to respond to the second question

34:43

Sure Thank you Uh I'm I'm I'm really sorry to hear that you're having trouble uh getting in touch But I know our human resources team is working really really hard to handle all the the uh um the calls that have been coming in Um and I do believe that uh we're trying to return all our calls within 24 hours Uh at this point um we absolutely want employees like you did meet these safe and And please um continue to work through human resources and your supervisor if possible Um because we definitely want you to have that access and be able to answer your questions So certainly I will follow up on it

35:26

Thank you John And a reminder Depressed star three to get your questions into the cue The next question is um one for Minister copping um about whether or not there is online information but presents about occupational health and safety that Albertans can access Go ahead Minister

35:44

Thank you for the question Yes there is Ah People need more information and go to Alberta dot c

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a backslash h s uh and we have information for employers and employees and also the processes Ah that we use uh when doing a an inspection or investigation

36:04

Thank you Minister And we'll repeat that Ah Web link Uh at the end of the call again The next question we have is for John it cargo And this is from a tail Go ahead Mente When you're ready

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and just reminder to on me

36:22

Hello

36:24

Yes go ahead

36:26

Yeah I

36:26

know That's good evening I know that the first body of to avoid the the spread of divide was just to wear a mask but uh car doesn't have enough Must put all the employees So why the government doesn't supply The Chicago has got to be with this

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equipment

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And I have another question That

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is a new test The check the unstability

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and it's not they're not most

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and it can be done quickly So you can check if somebody has is soccer not to with this that

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Why are we I have We don't have this kind of test here

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Thank you for the question I'm actually going to go to Dr Hinshaw for a response on this one Thanks

37:11

I can take the first The second

37:13

question Second question Yeah and then we'll go back to jail yet So with respect to the antibody test um I'm sure people have read in the news There's been lots of different reports of different antibody tests that are being developed by lots of different

37:25

companies So the important thing

37:27

to know about this test as you mentioned it it shows antibodies So it would show if someone has been infected in the past and if their body has uh the immune system has developed a response to it And what you may know is that different countries have bought uh large batches of these antibody tests that have been gone on to actually not work very well And some of them have only been about 30% sensitive meaning that if you test 100 people who actually have immunity only 30 people would test positive So we're being very careful in our evaluations of serology tests Our lab is actually doing evaluations right now on a several different options for serology but we want to make sure that if we're going to be using a test that we can rely on the results that it provides

38:16

the the thing about that test is it really would only detect again someone who had been previously infected uh and has developed that immunity so it wouldn't help us diagnose new infections Certainly that's something that we could consider in the future If we do have an outbreak that like this that helps us understand how many people might have previously been infected Uh but we need to wait until we have a test that we're confident will work Well uh before we actually purchase large amounts of that test to use in the population So absolutely good suggestion But we just don't have a reliable test that we're ready to use right now

38:55

Thank you Don't go ahead and go ahead on uh to respond to the first question

39:00

Yes thank you Ah obviously masks are incredibly important Uh and helping to to stop the spread And we do have mass for all of our people uh in the plant so that we absolutely do have plenty of masks And and I and as we know mass have been hard to come by Um there's there There There have been hard to find but with the help of the government of their in Canada we we have had them now and we anticipate being able to have them uh going forward but the certainly Thank you Ah for all the help that we received from the government to make sure we had the Basque as well It's a really important uh two

39:36

Thank you John And thank you material for the question The next question is our lives one from Crystal And this is the question for John with cargo Go ahead Crystal When you're ready

39:49

And just a reminder time You

39:58

uh Crystal can you hear me

40:01

We're going to go to the next question while we get crystal back on the line And this is a question for Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Minister Duration And this is a live question from Felix Go ahead Felix when you're ready

40:15

Hello

40:17

Uh we know that contact

40:18

tracing is very important in preventing the spread of the virus

40:24

What product All do we have in place in the company to the insured that they are doing the contact tracing properly because I'm hearing some incidents that a person was in direct contact with the person discuss positive

40:41

but because he doesn't have symptoms

40:44

he was still being us to come to work

40:51

I can uh put that to the the local uh H s officials But I just like to comment of uh a protocol that I mentioned in my earlier remarks of a A business resumption protocol that we worked with H s also with the Came Food Inspection Agency and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Labor To make sure similar to that of a hospital that if there is a co vid infection has been found you can identify it you can sanitize the area you can clean the area and you can ensure that it's then safe to resuming work in that area So that's something that uh that we started that work over three weeks ago when there was a first covert case at Harmony meats and that work the the principles of this protocol were implemented at harmony three weeks ago and that allowed them to resuming operations and uh and make sure that that everything was was adequate in the plant and they've been operating for the last three weeks So it's uh we we it took us more time to develop it and it finally got signed off by by all the parties last week But it is something that other provincial health authorities are looking at with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency specific to meat processing plants so that that work can resumed in the inevitable event of of a covert infection in uh in a worker

42:12

And uh before I turn it over I just a a shame Ah your Shan's first question for uh for what the provincial government has has been able to provide directly to To people there There was an emergency isolation support that before the federal program ah the Federal Emergency Benefit Program was in place We as a provincial government had a first was just could be a \$50 million program that um would give \$1100 for every two weeks to bridge the gap before that federal emergency payments begin And uh it it actually up to 100 and eight million So that's that program is now It ended um at 1 April fifth but it is something that now with the federal program in place that uh people can can apply for that benefit But all hand things over to uh to our local folks at Calvary

43:01

Go ahead Doctor Who are doctor Freezing

43:05

Sure I'll talk to who Um thank you very much for your question Uh so just for everyone's information the weight contact tracing works is that when we hear about a a positive uh case we normally get a notification from the uh little aboard 20 with the testing is done uh and then we call that person who's known to be covert positive Uh and then you know we asked you know where have you been in the last little while And who have you been in contact with Uh while you are Uh ah Infectious Uh and and so we call all those contacts who may have been exposed to the person who is up potentially Uh well he was positive And potentially maybe about an infection And you know application self isolate Stay at home and ask the contact Stay home as well Uh with respect to what's been happening Cardale uh you know I I know that my colleagues have been working very closely uh with some of the occupational health nurses and the whole team there uh to do some of the contact tracing because I think you know within the facilities you know we always ask from an H s respecter but then you know the people within a cargo also know what happens within cargo I I think that you know it If there was a situation where you know somebody did but not that contacted Uh when there was a positive case then I would say that you know process it was made And if you know what that happening I just ask you to you know flag it to other public health for Chicago Relation is you know we do strive to you know be 100% perfect with our contact tracing and I think most of the time we do a pretty good job Uh but you know

44:34

we we make mistakes sometimes And you know thank you for flying that it's an issue And you know that's still a case that please

44:39

follow up with cargo uh with myself

44:44

Thank you very much Doctor Who And a reminder to please Press star three to get your questions into the Q And the next mission is

44:50

Sorry Sorry It's doctor freezin If I could just add the doctor who's calling

44:55

Sorry it's always go ahead Dr

44:57

Y'know if if somebody is aware of that that they're concerned that there a contact of the case and haven't been contacted is uh by all means they can either call into the uh a medical officer of the help after hours number or the other approach would be to call into uh 811 because there's been significant uh uh improvements The additional South ah brought on to 811 So the waiting times are are uh significantly reduced So uh it allows you to get in touch with public health If you have that concerned that uh uh your contact and And uh uh you know you've not been been identified Uh thanks for the question

45:46

Thank you very much Dr Freezin And we have crystal back on the line And this is the question for a live question for John it Carl Go ahead Crystal

45:55

Hi Um first off I'd love to say that I'm impressed and cargo has gone far above everything that they need to do But I have one kind of concerned that I've been just kind of watching over the last couple of days and it's used those math

46:11

A lot of people have noticed some of them when they're wearing their math they're touching it quite frequently I'm wondering if they're not changing the math enough and the virus get attached on to that math

46:22

and I might be causing part of this outbreak

46:26

Um the other concern I have is I personally haven't been married one because I forgot my glasses But I've been wearing a face shield

46:33

and I'm wondering if that is okay or what you thought to be on the map

46:40

So go to John first and then they may ask Dr Hinshaw to

46:44

sure

46:46

Yeah Thank you for the question Ah so obviously that that's a that's a really good question Um and I think if there are opportunities where we can do more training uh we certainly will do that And we will work with the government to um to um to help you know with for more uh guys guidance I guess on on proper a maintenance of masks and how to wear them Um but I But I think obviously care of the mask and using it properly is a really really important Ah a thing that we need to be doing So I will I will certainly follow up with our team and make sure ah that that we are are uh taking good care of them And then we are training our people appropriately so they can use in the right way

47:25

Thank you And go ahead Dr Controlled out to that

47:28

Sure thanks So with respect to

47:29

whether or not a face shield is uh replacement for a mask I think I would suggest that you have a conversation with your local occupational health person Uh because it would depend on the the specifics Typically when someone um is asked to wear a mask especially in the context of the plant Ah there's actually two functions for it So one function would be for someone who uh potentially was exposed and might be incubating and and not have symptoms yet Ah but potentially could be infectious And again I want to stress that um

48:08

the challenge when we know that that's a fact becomes that then we look at everyone around us and we kind of think everyone is a potential source of infection Ah but ultimately again I don't believe that everyone working at Cargill is is source of infection However we have to treat everyone the same kind of with that universal precaution And so part of the purpose of wearing a mask is to prevent spread of any infection to others And a face shield would not sort of that function Um whether or not it would serve a function of protecting the person who's wearing it from others Ah a mask would fit more snugly around the mouth and nose so there would be more protection from a mask Uh but depending on the kind

48:50

of face shield you have

48:52

that would be where you could have that conversation with your local occupational health person to determine You know depending on

48:59

how big it is where it fits Ah they might be able to give you some guidance on that But typically uh face Shields wouldn't replace masks They would be Warren In addition too in certain circumstances

49:12

Thank you Doctor in trial And thank you John The next question is alive One from Marlin And this is a question for Dr Hinshaw Go ahead Maryland

49:22

Hi Um actually this was for John Nash from cargo

49:27

Yeah sure Go ahead with your question

49:29

Okay So um so you're all saying that you're taking it very seriously Uh but we've down from a number of 38 to 100 and 50 a positive cases in like a few days Um which I understand like not all of them are um link to Cargill But um but they must Again we're not really getting like um a specific number from cargo Um so all of this is going to make this thing that um in a week or two

49:56

we could be at 1000 positive cases

49:59

and you probably would not be the thinking about shutting down Um So my question is uh what's your plan If you were to lose 1000 employees um in a week or a couple of weeks from now

50:14

Thank you very much for the question Um so I guess one cases is clearly too many Um and and we we we are taking every single one of these very very seriously And that's exactly why we put into place so many of the controls that we have already Um I I I think the most important thing that I want everyone to know is we absolutely will not run the plant if it's not safe to do so If we don't have the people um available to do it we cannot and will not run Uh if we

50:45

or if we're not able to have food safety Ah prioritize the way we need to we will not run Um and we absolutely are working close really closely with Alberta Health Services to make sure that we were making the very best decisions Um we we we absolutely rely on the experts to help us through this really challenging time

51:04

Thank you for the question

51:07

Thinking I'm going to ask him distribution to also comment on this and potentially uh doctor in trouble

51:12

Sure I just wanted to to put a little um just add some additional information on contingency plan plans Uh something is the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry We are coming up to a fire season right now We have about 800 trained while firefighters that were getting prepared for in the next couple

51:31

of

51:31

weeks when when fire risks rise up in the province But we we've actually developed continuously plan of what happens when the Peak Co vid which will probably hit the next 6 to 8 weeks or based on uh the modeling from Dr Hinshaw but also it to do a continuously plan of what happens of 25% of our our our firefighters uh contract cove it in or out of out of commission for two weeks and looking at 50% even a 75% continuously plan of what we would have to do is a province to make sure that our our firefighters are are are a protected But be what How we can have a plan so that we can still fight fires here in the problems Filbert So there are essential services that do need to survive and do need to continue to operate during during covert And it's just something that uh I know whether it's a hospital or or firefighters or so many other industries There are continuously plans in place to make sure of what we can actually mitigate with uh with reduced workforce

52:40

and I'll just ask doctors and try to go ahead

52:43

Sure

52:44

So I I think absolutely acknowledging that the numbers are high and that's a concern So uh this is not something that anyone is taking lightly I think that question about you

know what would happen if the numbers were to rise to over 1000 Um I think you know you've heard from the the technical side of it I think from the public health side everything that we're doing right now is to prevent that from happening Uh the other thing I would say is that when we're doing really aggressive testing and with the expansion of testing to people with no symptoms I fully expects that there will be more cases identified And when we do additional testing the purpose of that is to be able to put in the control measures that we need to around those cases So to be clear when we when we do test then you you as everybody I think it's a where uh people who are getting sick today could have been exposed two weeks ago So depending on

53:42

uh you know again we we recognize there's been a lot of work done in the plant itself over the past few weeks that there have been some other potential risk exposures that employees might have had like writing and and vehicles together Uh without wearing masks without P p e And so it's it's highly likely that we will continue to see some new cases But what we need to do is put every single measure in place in every single setting where people might be exposed not just the plants but obviously again from the public health perspective we're concerned about the whole community Uh and those test that we're doing as I say will uncover new cases And that's going to help us put better control measures in place um and target the the areas where infection is happening

54:27

Thank you Dr Hinshaw and reminded to press star three to get your question into the cue The next question we have his live and this is a question for Dr Hinshaw And this is from Rick Let go ahead when you're ready

54:41

Uh yes The question is uh regarding the survival of the virus on surfaces and a cold environment

54:48

which is a cooler

54:50

production room processing room cutting rooms

54:53

Um how long does the violence actually survive

54:58

That is a really good question I'm aware

55:00

of research that looks at virus survival times on different types of surfaces Like copper where it's about four hours Cardboard is about 24 hours Uh plastic It can survive up to several days but I'm not personally aware of research on the different temperatures So I'm going to see if uh my colleagues Dr Freezing or Doctor who do either of you know of research that looks at virus survival

55:25

on in in an environment that's

55:27

cold

55:30

Um I I can talk Or do you want to talk to prison Mhm

55:37

Go ahead

55:39

Yeah So um in general you know the virus is known to be a little It's more stable in in colder ah and less humid dryer environment Now I I don't know if that x extends to say sub zero temperatures Ah but you know that's part of the reason why you know the viral stability and and cold weather and no humidity is part of the reason why we see you know seasonal influenza in the winter Um but if that is something that uh you know follow up on that and and verify because uh differential effect once the the temperatures get

56:12

far below zero

56:15

Um I One thing I would add to uh to that is that uh

56:21

part of the assessment work that uh our ah environmental public health uh staff did with Saffa Cargill was to uh look at the uh uh What was being used in the plan for cleaning and sanitization and making sure that it was uh effective against uh uh cold in Ah virus Ah uh which uh the the the chemicals being used uh uh are uh and uh uh this virus Uh while it versus the different times on surfaces is is uh actually uh killed fairly easily Uh with the uh appropriate uh uh disinfectants as well as uh uh you know use of uh uh soap and water is is also ah a very effective and and part of the reason why we emphasize uh hand hygiene frequent Uh uh washing of your hands with soap and water

57:25

Thank you both for your responses Uh please press dog 3 to get your question into the cue The next question is a red one And this is for cargo What decisions are being made in terms of procedures and sanitizing at cargo Go ahead John

57:41

Thank you for the question Um

57:43

we we're evaluating Ah our processes every day Um and and I think most importantly relying on the expert as as you've heard here today uh from uh the many medical professionals on the call We're learning a lot

58:00

about this virus and we absolutely um need to continue doing that and then

58:07

taking new ah new approaches as they come up And so one of the things that we're doing immediately is just increasing the frequency of sanitation in in the common areas in our plants Um we will sanitize all contact services and then heavy sanitizing on the weekends as well So we we have really stepped up our sanitation game in the plans to make sure that there's not any uh anything communicable um in the plant in that matter Um but I think most importantly we will absolutely continue to work with our Board of health Services to learn and react as quickly as we possibly can as these things change

58:47

Thank you John The next question is from John There's a lot of John's them

58:51

and this is for a doctor hand Josh Should employees who previously tested positive be retested before returning to work

58:59

Go ahead

59:01

So you may know

59:02

that Ah when we we first had our first few cases of the virus Uh we did require people to be tested again and have a negative tests before they could uh be released from isolation But what we're doing now is based on research that's been done Um that looked at people who had called who had coverage Um and then they did tests of the the virus every day after they were diagnosed And they tested that virus not just whether it was presence or absence but they tested to see if it was alive or dead So this

is in a special labs that I was able to tell if that virus could actually infect someone else or if it was just dead virus that the body was shedding And what they found in that research was that the presence of virus and

59:52

someone who had

59:53

mild disease So this isn't talking about someone who's in hospital or someone has a severe infection But someone who had mild disease

01:00:01

that the virus that they found that came from that person was dead after eight days And so even though you could possibly detect it on the kind of swap that we do uh and that's just a slob the and the swap runs goes to the lab and is run through a test that the text the genetic material the the are any of that virus

01:00:22

So even though you could find genetic material from the virus

01:00:27

for up to several weeks after a person was sick Uh eight days was the length of time from the start of symptoms to when those people had a live virus Because of that what we've done is we've taken our protocol is for when someone is safe to go back to work or um to leave the house once they've been diagnosed with covert And we've said that you need to stay at home for 10 days from the start of your symptoms And

01:00:53

if you're feeling totally well

01:00:55

by 10 days then you're safe to go out again We added those two extra days for safety and uh if somebody does have illness that persists of somebody's still feeling on Well they're still having fevers Then at that point in time they they should stay home until they're completely well But 10 days for a mild course of illness is safe to go back to work And so we are not requiring a retest because again the test that we're doing would not test a live virus versus a dead one It would just test whether the virus was there or not And most likely if it was picked up after 10 days it would be a dead virus based on the research that's been done

01:01:35

Thank you Dr Hinshaw A reminder Depressed or three to get your question into the cue The next question um is for both Cargill and Dr Hinshaw This is a live question from John John Go ahead when you're ready

01:01:56

Hello

01:01:57

Yes we can hear you Go ahead John

01:02:00

Yeah I have a question

01:02:03

It's a

01:02:04

h A AAA

01:02:07

have a special

01:02:08

for us to contain and head butts in this situation

01:02:14

I mean contain the outbreak

01:02:19

Thank you John For your question I'm going to go to Dr Hinshaw Uh first And then I'm going to go to John from cargo to also respond

01:02:26

Sure And I I'm not sure the question may actually

01:02:28

have been about a h s as well So I might ask um Doctor who in Dr Freezing to supplement Uh but just to say that uh in my opening remarks I mentioned that H s is put together a dedicated outbreak team So that's not just the medical officers of health but it has public health inspectors communicable disease nurses Ah their social workers There are medical students There's a whole host of different people on that team with the focus of controlling um

01:02:56

the spread of of the virus

01:02:58

over to health

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services Teams have been a part of the response for uh several weeks with respect to making sure that the plant site uh has been advised on what measures to take in that work site itself But as I mentioned earlier I think there's some other factors that are making it challenging to control spread that maybe outside that plant site itself so I might turn it over to ah doctor freezing and just ask if he can give a bit of a sense of the plan for h s Uh and what the next steps are

01:03:32

Hi again Thanks for that kind of question So um as Dr Hand Charles mentioned we uh have set up this special group It's uh uh meeting uh daily Uh seven days a week Ah And um I think one of the earlier question there's was uh questions was around the data So one of the first priorities processes to um

01:03:56

ah look further in terms of the the the data that we have Ah and um see where we should be focusing our efforts Uh

01:04:06

in the initial meeting of the task force

01:04:09

uh yesterday we identified some uh priority areas that were ah taking action on And uh um so uh one of the areas that uh were concerned about is the uh ris of uh spread Uh well people are ah traveling Ah together And And we've actually had a a recent situation Where um a couple of individuals were traveling to get tested Uh one of the persons in the vehicle was symptomatic Other person didn't have any symptoms Ah and uh so that person was symptomatic tested positive

01:04:52

the tests that other person came back negative

01:04:55

Unfortunately about 3 to 4 days later uh the person uh develop illness and was retested in and became positive So we're

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we're really ah concerned that uh uh uh you know when people are coming into work that there's not an exposure Ah during that that is uh resulting an infection Ah And then we're also looking at the uh

01:05:21

ah household um home environment that uh ah People are are living in And uh seeing what additional health measures uh can be taken there to uh uh uh help uh prevent uh reduce the uh transmission in that uh uh setting

01:05:43

Um uh maybe uh ask a doctor who As other comments Sept to uh he want to uh

01:05:50

to make

01:05:52

um No not at this time I I think uh doctor freezin you're covered it really Well I I would just like to reiterate you know things that have been said that we you uh sort of managing this help break is the number one problem number one priority Um and so we will you know mobilize all the resources necessary to you know stop the changes household transmission to you know insure There is ah uh not very much community transmission and and to support You know people of like yourselves through this processing to ensure that you know communications are uh are very clear uh and effective So thank you very much

01:06:27

Thank you Dr Freezin and Doctor here John from cargo Did you want to add anything else

01:06:33

Sure Uh I guess What What What Ah everyone is listening Can count on um from us is that we're gonna absolutely listen to the experts So we will continue to work with Alberta Health Services to make sure that we're doing everything we can possibly do um to contain this And as we learn new things we will adjust our approach And a good example of that is carpooling So as that was identified as as a potential issue um our team has been working very hard to make sure that we have alternatives And we're going to be um doing deploying some of those next week I believe so Um we will always listen to the experts here person foremost and we'll just quickly as we learn more just everyone can count on us doing that

01:07:19

Thank you very much John and a reminder to press star three to get your question into the cue The next question we have is live from Alex And this is a question for minister copying Go ahead Alex When you're

01:07:30

ready

01:07:33

Hi I just wanted to know um there are a bunch of people

01:07:36

and the plan but um that got covert 19 And you know some people we've heard are a lot sicker Um have become a lot sicker I see cargoes only offering 80 hours of pay But if this carries on it say I get sick and I'm hospitalized Um is there W c B coverage that that the government is willing to extend and approved for this type of situation or we get infections and we all have to stay home longer than two weeks because I don't think

01:08:06

like 80 hours is going to cut it for us

01:08:12

Thank you for the question In regards to uh workers compensation Ah

01:08:18

you know W c B As part of their for their legislation Will do you know when it was a claim is made will doing investigation And if it is determined that the individual got it from the uh from the workplace than benefits apply in those cases And we have ah in other other work places where it has been um uh contract at work stuff You see benefits have applied and in regards to um two benefits and I don't know John can speak further of the benefits that they provide But as indicated by administration previously there are benefits Also one of the federal government to C R B benefit uh for individuals who are impacted by uh by Kobe in 19

01:08:58

Thank you Minister John Did you wanna add

01:09:03

Sure I think I paid leave or something that we offer That's really important as well So um we'll continue working with our government partners to make sure that we're offering everything that we can possibly offer Um since you're anyone that's sick is taken care of

01:09:18

Thank you And thank you Alex For the question A reminder to press star three to get your question to the cue The next question we have is for Dr Hinshaw and this is live from Phyllis Go ahead Phyllis when you're ready

01:09:30

Hi Dr Hinshaw Just a quick question here Just because someone close you has the virus doesn't necessarily mean that there's a guarantee that you will get it Is that is that a fair statement

01:09:42

Um there will be a certain percentage of the population who simply won't get the virus
Is that correct

01:09:52

So you're absolutely correct But ah that just because

01:09:56

someone close to you have virus does not mean you'll automatically get it That's that's completely true I When the studies came out of the 1st 50,000 or so cases in China the summary report indicated that in household settings that was about 30% So about three and 10 people in household settings who lived with a confirmed case um three out of 10 people uh around them got the virus Now that doesn't mean that we should be complacent And we still need to take protective measures and prevent spread because it really depends on the circumstances and how people are interacting So that's an average number and that average number would go anywhere from um you know some households where someone is sick and that person is staying uh isolated in a room has their own bathroom uh and is not in contact with people while they're infectious It would be expected that no one in that household would get sick Or you could have a case where somebody who maybe has a very mild illness doesn't recognize it and doesn't limit activities and is in close

01:11:02

contact with many members in the household Then

01:11:04

more people could get sick in that circumstance So again um well it's absolutely correct that that just because you are close by to someone who has the virus does not mean you automatically get it at We still need to be careful and cautious and make sure that his few people get infected as

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possible

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with respect to the

01:11:25

second statements that um some people on the population uh won't to get the virus

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I just want to be clear that because this is a

01:11:33

new virus we don't have immunity None of us have immunity So if someone is exposed to enough of the virus uh and they haven't had it before um that it would be expected that if again if they had enough exposure that people would get sick So there's there's no one in the population who would be completely immune to the virus before they were exposed So hopefully that clarifies those two things

01:12:05

Thank you Dr John Thank you fellas for your question The next um questions come from an ya And there's a question for John and cargo and a question for Dr Hinshaw Go ahead And you when you're ready

01:12:17

Hi

01:12:17

there Um so my first question is for doctors and shop and I wanted to know what type of screening is Cargill expected to provide And how is the ministry An H has going to keep Cargill accountable to this

01:12:33

And my question for John is is Cargill following a 10 day or 14 day isolation period Um a John you had mentioned 80 hours which would be 14 days Um which would include we can and from my experience is actually 10 days Um

01:12:56

and if my second part of that question is

01:13:00

is it a standard practice for nurses from Cargill to call the employees Why while they are away from work sick and ask them to come to work Well they are sick Um this is a pretty dangerous practice and from again from my experiences has happened numerous times

01:13:21

Thank you And your for your questions And I'm going to get Dr Hinshaw uh to answer the first health related ones and then we'll go to

01:13:28

Hi John

01:13:32

Great Thank

01:13:32

you And maybe I can also out a bit of information around the 10 and 14 day question Uh but with respect to the first question I would say that the screening that is critical for Cargill to provide is that every day when workers arrive on site they should undergo screening for any kind of symptoms Uh so the questionnaire about if that person's experiencing um a fever cough runny nose shortness of breath sore throat Uh and in some settings So I'm

01:14:03

actually not sure I would look to to my colleagues that

01:14:05

over to health services if they've recommended adding a temperature

01:14:09

check or not That's something that we

01:14:11

do in health care facilities So taking a temperature check at the at the door Um but outside of health care facilities I'm not sure that would be up to H s to determine if that's something that should be added so awesome to comment on that in a minute But with

01:14:26

the 10 and 14 I just wanted to comment

01:14:29

on the difference between those two because someone who is sick waste coverage and has a confirmed infection

01:14:36

They would be required

01:14:37

to stay home and be in isolation for a

01:14:40

minimum of 10 days But if they still felt ill after that 10 days they would need to

01:14:45

stay home until they felt better So it could be a little longer than 10 days if their if their sickness was a little bit longer

01:14:53

And someone who was a close contact of a confirmed case would be required to stay home even if they were feeling well for 14 days from the point

01:15:03

at which they'd had that contact So both 10 and 14 days could apply depending on the situation So maybe just check with my colleagues today just about whether or not uh temperature check has been added to the screening

01:15:20

Hi This is a doctor who Yeah uh temperature checks happen Attic The screening Ah when I went to visit Cargill the other day with my temperature checks uh and so I mean I think it's uh it's always good to have a more more screening steps The even if there aren't absolutely mandated

01:15:39

Thank you Doctor Who in Dr Hinshaw John would you like to respond to the other questions

01:15:45

Sure Thanks for the question The uh the pay is 80 hours Um so 25 days a week

01:15:54

Essentially And we do want the the Cortines for 14 days Uh as possible The reason our our nurses call um I'm going to be really clear about this is because we care about you Uh we do wellness checks We're following up to make sure that you're doing okay or and and checking to see if there's anything additional that we can do for you Um

01:16:16

the most important thing Please

01:16:19

do not come to work If you are sick whether with this or anything else we want you to be okay We want you to be healthy Um the first and foremost uh please do not come to work if you were sick and again our nurses as standard protocol do check on our people because we absolutely care about you

01:16:38

Thank you John And thank you And you for those questions The next questions for ministers copy and this is from France is when employers test positive and need to isolate should they apply for E I or C E R B Go ahead Minister

01:16:54

Yeah So this is a a federal program Uh and I I understand that when they when please test positive and what the offensive done of they at this point in time they combined both into a c r c R b uh one application So I at this point in time I don't think it matters That may change as the federal government changes its programs But at this point in time it

is one program So it's applying um whether you apply through E Ivor through uh c R b
It's going under the c r B Broad program regardless

01:17:26

Thank you Minister And a reminder to press star three to get your questions into the
cue The next question is first for John from cargo And then I will also ask him into
surgery chin uh to respond as well And this is a live question from to Neil Go ahead to
know when you're

01:17:40

ready

01:17:42

Hi

01:17:44

Um I was just wondering

01:17:47

why I refer

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forever

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with

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what kind of sharing of best practices

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are going on in the food industry Uh right now

01:18:02

do you mind repeating

01:18:03

the first part of your question We couldn't quite hear you If you could just go ahead
again Sorry

01:18:09

Sure So um the challenges being faced at the High River facility um likely are being
faced at other facilities in the food industry And I was just wondering what kind of um
best practice sharing is happening in the industry right now

01:18:26

Thank you for the question I'm actually going to go to minister first and then I'll come back to John

01:18:31

Sure Thank you to kneel for that question And uh for boats I think three weeks or four weeks now we've been um having weekly calls with federal and provincially licensed uh meat processing plants And that's just to to constantly eight to inform them but also to identify any further government action that may be required So it is something that from the government side we are in constant contact with with industry and another side We uh when it comes to the inspection side of things are provincial meat inspectors We've actually been training them up to be able to to work in either a federally or provincially license facility So we are We have identified you know best practices to try to rally as many resources as we can behind keeping uh our food processing and our food supply chain open because it is just such a incredible we The work you guys do is so incredible Not just to 12 burns but the entire country So that's uh those are two things that we've done as a provincial government specifically to make sure that we can try to identify best practices and make sure that work work sites in the province are safe as well as our food security in our food supply chain

01:19:46

Thank you very much Minister John to do you want to jump in on this question as well

01:19:50

Sure Um thanks for the question be it's It is absolutely imperative that we share best practices around the industry Um after cargo we've had a long standing position that uh at anything we learn uh for an an an act from a safety people safety or a food safety perspective is is a pretty competitive So we absolutely will share broad like anything that we learn um as we can So we're working with industry partners to share these best practices today and there's actually a federal working group led led by agriculture and agrifood Canada Uh that's been put together That is helping ensure that we share everything that we possibly can share because we absolutely must learn from each other

01:20:33

Thank you both for the responses And for that question the next question is live And this is also a question for John with cargo And this question is from Collin Go ahead Call him when you're ready

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Other Ah I'm just wondering given the amount of cases that are confirmed at the plant right now Ah what number do we have to reach for cargo to consider the unions recommendation for shutting down for two

01:21:00
weeks

01:21:04
Thank you for the question Um

01:21:07
there is not a number that we are uh working towards We're trying to understand Understand Uh we we are The most important thing is that that the community and our employees need to know that as soon as we cannot run safely uh or with the food safety processes that we need in place we will not run And we will always work with a h s and oh h s and and others to make sure that we are doing everything we can possibly do So if there's ever a point where we cannot ah operate safely and we will not do so

01:21:41
thank you very much Calling for the question I think you John for the response reminder to press star three to get your question to the cue Although we are getting close to uh being at the end of our time the next question is for John with cargo And this question is a question from Gail and that I will read Despite measures being taken workers are still testing positive And this has an effect on our whole on all of our families What more is cargo doing to stop the virus spreading

01:22:09
Thank you for the question And I um I personally uh and and my colleagues as well cared deeply about uh everyone who's been impacted by this this really really bad virus Um and we we will continue to work together with all the experts to make sure that we're putting the absolute newest techniques processes um in in place to make sure that our our people are safe as possible Um we we care about the community a great deal We care about our people a great deal And I think the best thing we can do is continue Um continue learning from H s and others uh to to put the best practices in place So uh we will continue to open our doors to for tours uh and visits by h s um and and and absolutely do continue learning there So um anything that we can get we will do

01:23:05
Thank you Uh the next question is from Rachel and I will read this question And this is a question for Dr Hinshaw And also Dr Who in Dr Freezing Um what is the actual plan going to be um have a task force team But what is the plan to mitigate the spread

01:23:21
I'll start with you Dr Into

01:23:23
Sure

01:23:23

Thanks Um and I just want to reference also an earlier question I think it might have been from calling about the uh continued operations of the plant's just fight the high number of cases to say that in a public health investigation the really critical part of any investigation of an outbreak is to understand where the spread is happening because without understanding where the spread is happening it's not possible to prevent that spread So I with respect to this particular outbreak um I mentioned earlier the fact that there seem to be this connection between some of the long term Carol breaks Uh and some of the workers in those outbreaks who got unfortunately got sick and then brought it home to their household And then within those households there were some people who works at the plants Um and then again there have been now cases ah identified in in plant workers But because the early investigation and the focus of the prevention measures focused on the plant itself Ah unfortunately I think some of the pieces that that were missed where the challenges that some households are having with respect to safe isolation and quarantine uh and so there

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some of the things

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that we need to do now and and also the challenges with car pooling Uh and so if you have several people in a vehicle together then that's of course the risk for ongoing transmission And so the critical pieces of of outbreak control again or to look at where these risks are being identified and then put things in place to stop them So I think what has been mentioned is um Well that's a just elaborate on this in more detail but with the risks that have been identified with car pooling uh and risks of household transmission That's where we're really focusing attention as well as insuring that the plant site continues to implement all of the different pieces of prevention measures that have already been put in place And so we're making sure that um I believe effective today uh supplying masks for all those who are car pooling course would recommend if possible And that's not always possible for people trying to get to the plant site uh in

01:25:39

vehicles where it's just one person or people sitting two meters apart And the uh if people are carpooling wearing masks which again I believe are being provided today on sites for people while they're in those vehicles uh and looking into alternate transportation options that I think have been mentioned for next week and then with respect to households where we do see households where people are really struggling to have the space to be able to isolate safely the government is exploring options to be able to support people who may need to um be outside their home for 10 days if they're confirmed case so that they're not at risk of spreading the virus to others in their household and supporting them Well they do this So those all that work is currently in

progress But I'll maybe ask my colleagues in Calgary zone if they can comment a bit more on the details

01:26:34

Yeah

01:26:36

Doctor Who here So Yeah Echoing what You know what I said You know I think you know we're regular Can I try to get to the A solution to the car pooling issue But that again is it just

01:26:45

raise

01:26:45

the risk but not as much of a small service though All risk is very important to us as this sort of uh the household transition peace And and so basically we're really going to try hard sport people who are asked to be on South isolation You know we recognize that it's very difficult to stay home uh for you know a 14 day period or a 10 day period or whatever period Uh you know if you need to uh you don't get the groceries or if you need to you know work your second work your second job And so we will be mobilizing a an array of community supports including you know elements of uh alright Say uh community organizations Uh uh health care workers and we'll you know insure that people are able to get what they need Uh you know two stay at home Um because we need to support that when you you know ask for that

01:27:31

So I think with with those measures that we really plan to ramp up

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starting on Monday ideally uh we're really going to hope to uh put a stop to to this household transmission Uh that that what we're seeing today

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The only other thing that actually sorry about this is you know I think this is you know one of the certainly the first town hall that I've parts to participated in on this issue And it's just so important I think for us to to hear from you know the needs of the individual Uh you know workers that the people affected by this uh you know because that you ultimately are for sure The most important group and so you know I I think something that will you know hopefully developed as it is the mechanism to understand You know some of the unique needs that you face Uh and once those needs are identified we'll do our best to support you in in those in those needs So having that two way channel of communication is going to be critical Uh in insuring a success of an outbreak control

01:28:32

Thank you Dr Who and we are ready to wrap up And so if you do have any questions that have not been answered are you additional questions Please email them to um minister duration at a f dot minister at g o v dot a b dot C A That's a s dot minister at g o z dot a b dot c A And also as was mentioned during the call w w w dot Alberta dot c a um backslash away chess or just generally on Alberta Don't say there is lots of covert related resources information including around financial and um community support So with that we are um closing And I just want to think before I pass it over to John in ministry situation for some closing comments Just wanted to think all of you for taking the time to participate today and to all of the speakers including Dr Deana Hinshaw Chief Medical Officer of Health Ah Doctor who And Dr Freezing Who are calories Own medical officers of help

01:29:34

Dr Jason Copying Minister Minister of Labor and immigration Andre Trombley Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Um John Nash from Cargo and Andrew Polluters from cargo as well So now John I would ask you to provide some closing comments

01:29:51

Sure Uh first of all thank you very much Everyone who who participated business and thank you to all of our employees as well as everyone in the community for taking time Um out of your busy days Um I think for me I this it's really important I I care deeply about our people Um and it means a lot that we are able to have this dialogue I I appreciate greatly No the long relationship we've had in the community and I appreciate the the relationship with the union I mean what They're forcing us to have a really important conversation and that's that's great So thank you for that as well Um

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what What I want people to walk away with is this we we are doing essential work Uh it is really important that we were able to feed Canadians and support our farmers and ranchers Um and And partners in the supply chain and our people are are incredible Are people are just the best And they do such hard work every every day just to make sure Canadians are fed So thank you I'm grateful for the work that you do Um And please know your safety is is the most important thing If we cannot run the plant safely and provide safe food we will not do it That is my commitment to you Thank you for the time

01:31:01

And uh I would just like to uh to say you know thank you and appreciate everyone's time to To be honest tell a town hall this afternoon and and on this call R Albert as best medical minds And uh they provide Albert his government with the best up to date information on on a daily basis And I would just like to encourage everyone to not get distracted by misleading noise or inflammatory rhetoric because any government's primary goal our core goal is to keep our people safe And Dr Hinge on her team led our

public health authority And there's only one public health authority in Alberta And I just like to encourage you to to listen to our daily updates to stay informed to to best keep yourself and your family safe during this difficult pandemic So thank you very much for your time today

01:31:50

Thank you everyone that

01:31:58

the access

01:31:58

Live event has ended Thank you for calling goodbye