

Six Short Questions about the Lack of COVID-19 Testing in Ontario

March 30, 2020

I don't understand the confusion around testing. Yes we want to know who has COVID-19. But I had understood that the number one reason to know was to track down the people who had been in contact with each infected person.

That is how Germany and other countries got control of their situation. It isn't about one piece of data. It is about what you do with the data. So there are a number of very real questions.

Q1. Why is there such a delay in producing enough testing material? It is not true that we have enough for now. That misses the point. Every doctor I talk to is desperate about the shortage of test swabs. Every doctor!

Q2. Are we urgently training people to do the testing in an exponentially expanded program? How many? Where?

Q3. There is a little information about expanding the ability to analyse tests faster. Is enough money available? Is it coordinated sufficiently?

Q4. And what about the tracking system for identifying who a sick person has seen? Surely we need to be training a large number of people. We hear nothing about this.

Q5. What about setting up the system for tracking such large numbers?

Q6. And what about dealing with the results?

Surely all of this needs to be clearer in our minds so we understand what is being done, and whether it is being done fast enough and on a large enough scale. Repeat: every doctor I speak to is desperate about all of this.