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Covid-19 in the Arctic: Briefing Document Knowledge gaps and areas for potential action in the Arctic Council

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# Covid-19 in the Arctic: Briefing Document

## Knowledge gaps and areas for potential action in the Arctic Council

Section of the briefing document or gap from other identified category:

For the EPPR, relevant potential action areas could be related to one or more identified gaps on 1.2 – 2.7.

EPPR has started discussion on what could be the role of the WG in Covid-19 related AC activities and has identified some areas especially in regard of search and rescue that should be looked into.

EPPR has also established an initial connection with SDWG in regard of possible cooperation in Covid-19 related activities in the context of emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

It is clear that some issues in circumpolar approach to Covid-19 could fall under the EPPR mandate, but most likely in cooperation with some of the other WGs.

Knowledge gap or potential action area

Name of project and WG/EG:

The EPPR does not have any projects ongoing related to knowledge gap or area in particular.

Work plan year:

How does this project address Covid-19 in the Arctic or pandemics in the Arctic?

Does the Arctic Council have an ongoing project on or related to a given knowledge gap or action area?



Name of project and WG/EG:

The EPPR does not have any projects ongoing which could address this issue. Work plan year: -

How does this project address Covid-19 in the Arctic or pandemics in the Arctic?

Can an existing project address this issue?

Could an ongoing project be adjusted?

Name of project and WG/EG:

Prevention, Preparedness and Response in Small Communities project contributes to general information sharing, awareness and education, and the type/structure of the project could be adjusted for a Covid-19 context and could act as an example of a method of communication, education and information sharing. (1.4)

Work plan year: 2021-2023

How would this project address Covid-19 in the Arctic or pandemics in the Arctic?

Mainly support prevention and preparedness through public information.



Name of project and WG/EG:

EPPR would most likely join or initiate a new joint project with another AC WG to be able to address a relevant Covid-19 issue.

Work plan year: 2021-2023

How would this project address Covid-19 in the Arctic or pandemics in the Arctic?

Is a new project needed?

Could all envisioned projects be placed under any of the WGs or might a new Task Force (other type of subsidiary body) be needed to address a particular

Please provide specific details on the suggested Task Force or other subsidiary body:

How would this new body address Covid-19 in the Arctic or pandemics in the Arctic?

The nature of the issue (pandemics/severe disease outbreaks) could call for a centralized approach (existing WG or new TF) with input from and coordination with other WGs.

area?



Is there work related to Covid-19 in the Arctic that is not captured in the

Please provide specific details on the work needed:

The EPPR has identified an area of work in relation to Covid-19/pandemic impacts to emergency preparedness and response – in particular regarding SAR and MER.

Which Arctic Council body would be responsible for the task(s)?

EPPR or input to new TF/responsible WG.

How would this address Covid-19 in the Arctic or pandemics in the Arctic?

I.e. safety of emergency workers/responders and how to operate in an infectious environment.

How to handle and assist infected people in distress, not to spread infections to receiving communities etc.

compiled list that should also be considered?

Questions or comments