

Good morning/Dobre rano,

I continue with some more positive news stories about the progress and acts of kindness being made back home in Czech Republic and Slovak Republic and right here in Canada.

Stories Out of Slovak Republic:

Slovakia Sends Humanitarian Assistance to Italy:

<https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22387825/today-in-slovakia-news-overview-april-20.html>

Slovak company develops new tracing app to help in COVID-19 battle:

<https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22385254/smart-solutions-to-deal-with-coronavirus.html>

Bloomberg: Slovakia has the least per-capita deaths in Europe, showing speed is important:

<https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22394244/bloomberg-slovakia-has-the-least-per-capita-deaths-in-europe-showing-speed-is-important.html>

Stories Out of Czech Republic:

A popular line of toy figures in the Czech Republic (EFKO in Nove Veseli) now produces figurines (Igracek) wearing Covid-19 protective masks as part of a program to raise funds for hospitals / medical equipment:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-czech-toy/czech-toys-don-masks-to-help-medics-tackle-coronavirus-idUSKCN21W20U>



Czechs to Test 27,000 People to Gauge Coronavirus Antibodies:

The pandemic has been less severe in the Czech Republic, a country of 10.7 million, than most west European countries after the early adoption of strict measures such as shop and school closures, a ban on most foreign travel and the mandatory use of face masks in public.

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnl/health-pmnl/czechs-to-test-27000-people-to-gauge-coronavirus-antibodies>

Stories Out of Canada:

Ontario orders close to one million Spartan Bioscience portable COVID-19 test kits:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/04/13/ontario-orders-close-to-one-million-spartan-bioscience-portable-covid-19-test-kits.html>

University of Waterloo Researchers Working on Nasal Spray COVID-19 Vaccine:

Vaccines are also being developed by research teams at Dalhousie University, McMaster University, the University of Alberta, Laval University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Manitoba and Western University. Companies such as Medicago, Entos Pharmaceuticals and AbCellera Biologics are also conducting research work in Canada. Quebec City-based Medicago said it could begin human trials of a vaccine as soon as July or August.

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/university-waterloo-covid19-vaccine-151855141.html>

Quebec Biotech Firm Produces a Potential COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/biotech-quebec-city-coronavirus-1.5497043>

U of T and McMaster researchers at Sunnybrook Hospital isolate virus behind COVID-19:

<https://www.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-and-mcmaster-researchers-sunnybrook-hospital-isolate-virus-behind-covid-19>

Montreal Heart Institute launches clinical study into potential COVID-19 treatment:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-heart-institute-study-colchicine-1.5506930>

Look out N95. A group from the U of Saskatchewan is engineering a new mask:

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/look-out-n95-a-group-from-the-u-of-s-is-engineering-a-new-mask/ar-BB136teU>