

Call Out: COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Plus Members

What:

The COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force was started in 2021 by York Region Public Health to collaborate with community partners on the vaccine roll out in York Region. Since its inception, this group has evolved into a working forum for health care providers, public health, hospitals and community organizations to ensure the equitable distribution and promotion of COVID-19 vaccines in our community. On occasion, we talk about other issues relevant to public health, as well as primary care issues affecting our population – such as catch-up clinics for other routine immunizations.

When:

The group typically meets for a virtual online meeting once a month on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Who:

Task force chairs include Dr. Allan Grill (Chief of Family Medicine, Markham Stouffville Hospital) and Dr. Fareen Karachiwalla (Associate Medical Officer of Health, York Region)

Members of the task force include:

- Primary care leaders
 - Hospital partners
 - Other health care community providers and organizations
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Community organizations
 - Public Health
- ...and hopefully you!

What's changed:

While the initial goal of the task force included prioritizing eligibility groups and considering logistics for the COVID-19 vaccine roll out in York Region, our work has turned to broader discussions. This includes brainstorming how to improve vaccine uptake and accessibility, strategizing how to deal with surges in demand and examining best practices for public promotion and outreach given the complexity of changing vaccines, guidance and eligibility. Task force members are asked to actively engage and contribute to these discussions to lend valuable perspective and insight.

Communication:

After meetings, task force members will receive a follow up email to distribute to their teams or networks summarizing the outcome of the meeting, any action items as well as useful links and resources.

Attendance is necessary for fruitful conversations. No preparatory work is required, though members are expected to contribute actively to discussions, provide guidance and share strategic ideas for public health to continue ensuring equitable COVID-19 vaccine access, promotion and education. Vaccination remains one of our most powerful tools to help combat the global pandemic.

Contact:

Sound like a role for you? We'd love to hear from you. To inquire further or join, please email IDCDcomms@york.ca. Thank you for your interest!