

A Scan of International Task Forces or Committees for COVID-19 Vaccines

As part of the Government of Canada’s national medical research strategy to fight COVID-19, the Ministers of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Health announced a Canadian Vaccine Task Force (CVTF) that will provide advice on COVID-19 vaccines. The CVTF’s advice is expected to include the following:

- prioritizing vaccine projects seeking support for activities in Canada;
- non-Canadian vaccine candidates of interest to attract into or partner with Canada;
- optimizing the tools needed for vaccine development (e.g., assays and animal models);
- effective R&D and supply chain coordination for COVID-19 vaccine projects;
- solutions to domestic manufacturing of the most promising COVID vaccines; and,
- opportunities to enhance business connectivity globally to secure access to vaccines with key commercial sponsors.

In the interest of understanding the international landscape of advisory bodies with activities in a relevant space to that of the CVTF, a scan was completed using information readily available on the internet (Table 1). Countries with a national task force or committee whose activities include overseeing and/or advising on the development of COVID-19 vaccines are shown in Figure 1. It is noteworthy that there may indeed be other task forces or committees not included in this document that either do not have significant presence on the internet, or perhaps are too early in their establishment to have been captured in the current scan.

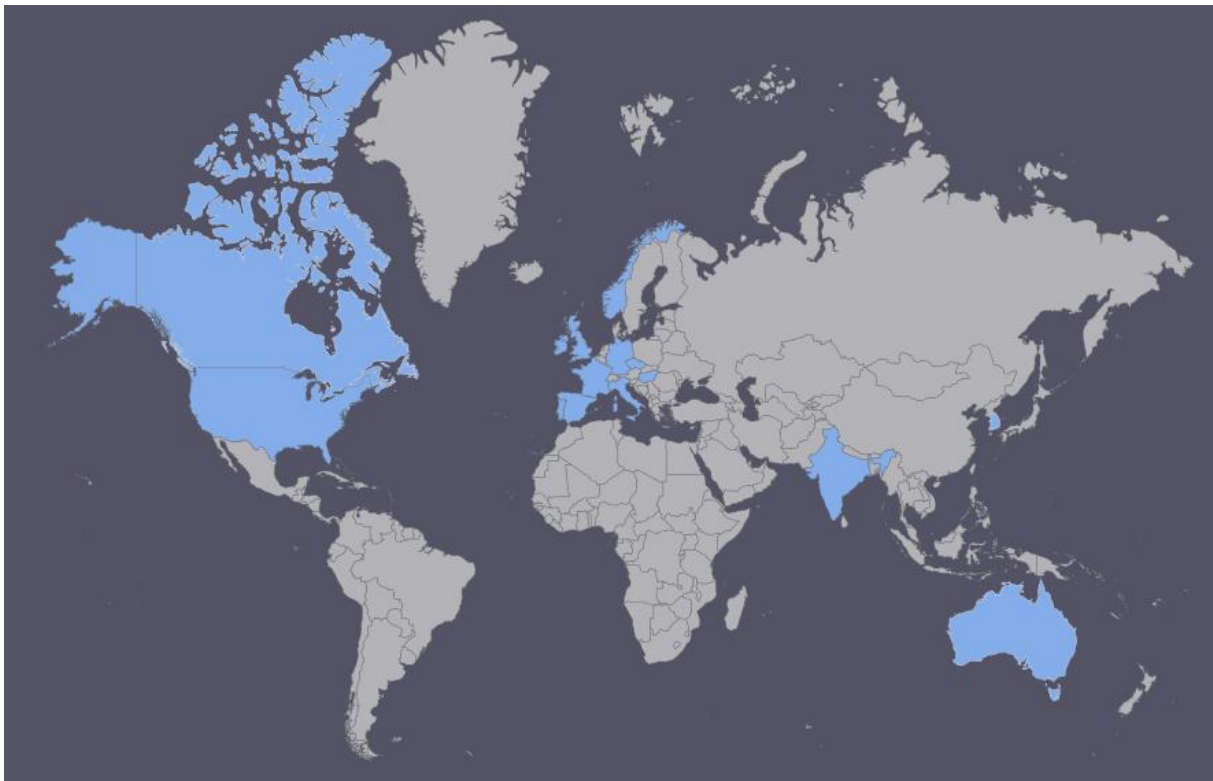


Figure 1: Countries (shown in blue) with a national task force or committee whose activities include overseeing and/or advising on the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

Table 1: Task forces and committees whose activities include overseeing and/or advising on the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

1. Canada	
1.1 National Immunity Task Force	
Mandate	To measure the scope of coronavirus infection in Canada and rapidly provide information needed to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and safely get Canadians back to work.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid pan-Canadian and regional serologic surveys that are sensitive to the fast-changing state of global science on COVID-19 immunology. • Catalyze, support, and, where appropriate and feasible, harmonize the design and rapid implementation of population-based studies that will generate reliable first estimates of SARS-CoV-2 immunity, overall and in priority populations across Canada. • Support laboratory studies to establish the advantages and limitations of immunity testing and related technologies and will generate practical insights into the optimum ways of using and interpreting these tests.
Members	<p>Co-Chaired by Dr. Catherine Hankins and Dr. David Naylor. Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading experts in public health, infectious disease, immunology, epidemiology, laboratory medicine, and healthcare policy. • In addition to academic and federal Government members, representatives from the Governments of Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.
2. USA	
2.1 Operation Warp Speed (Public-private partnership)	
Mandate	To facilitate and accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. Note: goal is to have substantial quantities of a safe and effective vaccine available for Americans by January 2021.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote mass production of multiple vaccines based on preliminary evidence allowing for faster distribution if clinical trials confirm one of the vaccines is safe and effective. • Coordinate existing HHS-wide efforts, including the NIH's ACTIV partnership for vaccine and therapeutic development, NIH's RADx initiative for diagnostic development, and work by BARDA.
Members	<p>Interagency program that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Food and Drug Administration (FDA); National Institutes of Health (NIH); Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA); • Department of Defense; • private firms; and, • other federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. <p>Specific membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Advisor: Moncef Slaoui (formerly of GlaxoSmithKline) • Chief Operating Officer: General Gustave F. Perna • Leadership also includes subject matter experts from HHS and DoD

Recent News	<p>Selected five companies as the most likely candidates to produce a COVID-19 vaccine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderna • Oxford University and AstraZeneca • Johnson & Johnson • Merck • Pfizer
<p>2.2 Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) (Public-private partnership, initiated by NIH)</p>	
Mandate	To develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding development of the most promising treatments and vaccines.
Strategies and Work	Pursue four fast-track focus areas (most ripe for opportunity), each of which is led by a working group of senior scientists representing government, industry, non-profit, philanthropic, and academic organizations.
Members	<p>Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIH • HSS, including CDC, FDA, and BARDA • Department of Defense • Department of Veterans Affairs • European Medicines Agency (EMA) • Representatives from academia • Not-for-profit organizations • Biopharmaceutical companies
Recent News	https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/activ/news-blogs
<p>2.3 National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) (Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee)</p>	
Mandate	To recommend ways to achieve optimal prevention of human infectious diseases through vaccine development, and provide direction to prevent adverse reactions to vaccines. This advice is presented to the Assistant Secretary for Health.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study and recommend ways to encourage the availability of an adequate supply of safe and effective vaccination products. • Recommend research priorities and other measures the Director of the National Vaccine Program should take to enhance the safety and efficacy of vaccines.
Members	<p>Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics/clinicians (voting) • Associations • Representatives of government departments (including PHAC)
3. UK	
<p>3.1 Vaccine Task Force (Public-private partnership, set up by the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser (Sir Patrick Vallance), Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Jonathan van Tam), Business Secretary and Health Secretary)</p>	
Mandate	To support efforts to develop an effective COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, by providing industry and research institutions with any resources they need.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing regulations and scale up manufacturing for possible mass production when a successful vaccine is developed. • Work to develop funding and operational plans for the procurement and delivery of

	<p>vaccines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure work being done to find a vaccine in the UK complements and supports global efforts.
Members	<p>Chair: Kate Bingham (Managing Partner at SV Health Investors) Deputy Chair: Clive Dix (CEO of C4X Discovery)</p> <p>Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Academia • Industry, including representatives from AstraZeneca and the Wellcome Trust
4. International	
4.1 WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization Working Group on COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination	
Mandate	Establish an independent process to advise WHO and its Member States on the use of initially pre-licensed vaccines, followed by updates as additional information on product use becomes available.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide continuous review of available evidence on progress of candidate COVID vaccines. • Provide guidance for development of prediction models for target populations for vaccines. • Prepare policy advice on accelerated use of vaccines. • Provide guidance to ensure equitable access to vaccines and safety of vaccines.
Members	TBD
5. South Korea	
5.1 COVID-19 Vaccine Development Task Force (Government-civilian team)	
Mandate	To support the development of a new COVID-19 vaccine and treatment.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a comprehensive review of relevant situations. • Establish a swift decision-making system to facilitate the development process.
Members	<p>Top-level officials from health, science, finance, commerce, and startup ministries. Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Food and Drug Safety • Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • Civilian experts
6. Europe	
6.1 European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN) COVID-19 Taskforce	
Mandate	To coordinate research information gathering and COVID trials and serve as a repository of COVID research within the EU
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and digest scientific literature on COVID clinical trials. • Develop a metadata repository for COVID trials. • Develop a database on regulatory, ethical, and data protection. • Ensure preparedness of national clinical trial unit partners. • Combine and coordinate national initiatives to promote multinational trials. • Outreach, partnerships, and international cooperation.

Members	ECRIN member countries include Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. Observer countries include Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland.
7. India	
<u>7.1 Task Force</u>	
Mandate	To set up a process for coronavirus vaccine development.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with international community on the COVID-19 vaccine development process. • Compile a list of national and international organizations working on vaccine development. • Create clinical cohorts focusing on long-term follow-up of people to better understand the disease. • Collect bio-specimens to form the basis for further trials of drugs and vaccines.
Members	<p>Department of Biotechnology (DBT) will be central coordinating authority of the task force.</p> <p>Co-Chairs: Niti Aayog and Professor K VijayRaghavan (Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India)</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) • Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) • Department of Science and Technology (DST) • Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) • Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) • Directorate General of Health Services • Drug Controller General of India
8. Australia	
<u>8.1 Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)</u> (Department of Health Committee)	
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. • To mitigate emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters.
Strategies and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with states and territories to develop and adopt national health protection policies, guidelines, standards and alignment of plans. • Meets daily to assess the risk to Australia and recommend public health actions. The AHPPC endorsed the Government's emergency response plan for COVID-19. • Regularly reviews response plan, moves resources into activities that are working well, and scales back activities that are not working.
Members	<p>Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Health Officers from each state and territory • Chief Medical Officer • Representatives from key departments • Team of clinicians (led by the Chief Medical Officer, to assist with the COVID-19 response)

