

# Introduction to the APEC HWG Sub-Working Group on Vaccination and Vaccines Task Force

APEC endorsed the Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course in August 2021.  
Access the Action Plan here: <https://bit.ly/VTFActionPlan>

## Introduction

- **APEC Health Ministers agree that vaccination is one of the most important and cost-effective public health measures.** By taking a *life-course approach*, APEC economies can better prevent infection and disease for all populations, foster a sustainable health system, improve economic and social inclusion, and enable economic growth.
- The **APEC Health Working Group (HWG) Sub-Working Group on Vaccination (SWGv)**, which is co-led by the United States and Canada, advances a coordinated approach for the HWG to address issues related to vaccination in the Asia-Pacific region. Under the SWGv, the vaccination program of work (VPoW) allows the HWG to coordinate and build on existing vaccination efforts and promote a cohesive, longer-term approach to related initiatives on vaccine supply (led by U.S.) and demand (led by Canada).
- The **APEC Vaccines Task Force (VTF)** was established as a public-private initiative in 2020. The VTF operates under the APEC HWG Sub-Group on Vaccination, and has organized initiatives with several other economies. All economies are welcome to engage with the VTF.
- The VTF facilitated the development of the **APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course**, which was endorsed by APEC health ministers in 2021, and the **Regional Dashboard on Vaccination Across the Life-Course**. The VTF has also organized policy dialogues, webinars, and workshops to promote implementation of the Action Plan and domestic immunization plans.



## Focus

The VTF shapes its engagements based on the 7 core pillars of the Action Plan :

- ✓ Promote recognition of the **value of vaccination & vaccine innovation** by policymakers and key decision-makers
- ✓ Prioritize **access to and uptake of vaccination across the life-course** for all individuals
- ✓ Build whole-of-government capacity in **health security and pandemic preparedness**
- ✓ Strengthen **confidence** in vaccination & build **resilient immunization programs**
- ✓ Enable investment and innovation in **vaccine R&D, manufacturing and delivery**
- ✓ Accelerate **regulatory harmonization** for vaccines across APEC economies
- ✓ Establish proven & innovative mechanisms for **sustainable immunization financing**

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## ★ Collaborating with the VTF

- The VTF has a strong network of over 1,000 key stakeholders from all 21 APEC economies, representing government, academia, civil society, industry, and healthcare sectors, and has experience bringing these stakeholders together virtually and in-person to discuss challenges faced by immunization systems and potential related solutions. Together with APEC economies, the SWGv, VTF, and this network can, among other activities:

**Organize domestic and regional capacity building workshops to help economies achieve the targets and indicators included in the Action Plan.**

**Facilitate sharing of information and experiences between governments and non-government organizations for focal issues such as vaccine financing, vaccine confidence, and regulatory harmonization.**

**Enhance understanding of value of vaccination and support efforts to build political will and public support for life-course immunization programs (e.g through promoting links to pandemic preparedness, AMR, primary care, and health equity).**

**Support economy efforts to advance other global and regional initiatives to build and improve capacity and leadership (e.g., GHSA).**

**Establish domestic and regional public-private partnerships/initiatives to ensure follow-up and implementation of economy specific vaccine and immunization plans.**



## ▶ Learn More

To learn more about the APEC Vaccines Task Force, please visit [www.apec.org/vaccinestaskforce](http://www.apec.org/vaccinestaskforce) or contact the VTF secretariat: Alexa Trost ([atrost@crowell.com](mailto:atrost@crowell.com)) and Ryan MacFarlane ([rmacfarlane@crowell.com](mailto:rmacfarlane@crowell.com)).

To learn more about the Sub-Working Group on Vaccination, please contact Miranda Smith ([Miranda.Smith@hhs.gov](mailto:Miranda.Smith@hhs.gov)) and Salina Wilson ([salina.Wilson@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:salina.Wilson@phac-aspc.gc.ca)).