**Consent Form for Participation in a Research Study Interview**

**Title of Research Project:** The Role of Primary Care in the Rollout of COVID 19 Vaccines: A Review of the Canadian Experience

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Monica Aggarwal, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

**Co-Investigators:**

Dr. Alan Katz, Community Health Sciences and Family Medicine, University of Manitoba

Dr. Ross Upshur, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Dr. Rick Glazier, St. Michael’s Hospital

**Sponsor:** Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario, Ontario College of Family Physicians, Ontario Medical Association Section of General Practice and Family Medicine

**Study topic and purpose:**

Ontario’s approach to the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination strategy started with an initial focus on vaccines being provided through hospitals and then secondarily through mass public health clinics and pharmacies.

Primary care is the first point of contact to the health system, especially for vulnerable and medically underserved communities. When asked where people want to get their COVID vaccines, almost half said their family physician’s office and 87% said they would go to their family physician first for advice on the vaccine itself. Building vaccine confidence by addressing vaccine hesitancy is a foundational role of primary care as patients trust their primary care providers. Public confidence in vaccine safety and effectiveness and the principles of equity need to be considered in approaches since it can result in unintended consequences of poorer health outcomes, increased COVID burden and less vaccination in underserved and marginalized communities.

Since the delivery of immunizations is part of comprehensive primary care, knowledge users are interested in learning what approaches to the rollout of the vaccines were used in Canada and what lessons can be learned from their experience. Thus, this study will examine the experience of four Canadian jurisdictions (Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, and British Columbia) with the COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy from the perspective of key informants (i.e., policymakers, public health officials, stakeholders (medical associations, pharmacist associations), healthcare professionals, and patients). This knowledge will help inform a sustainable vaccination strategy for all Ontarians in future COVID-19 vaccination efforts and beyond.

**Invitation to Participate:**

**We are conducting one-on-one virtual interviews with key informants.**

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Before agreeing to participate in this study, you must read and understand the following explanation of the proposed study procedures. The following information describes the purpose, procedures, benefits, and risks associated with this study. It also describes your right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time. In order to decide whether you wish to participate in this research study, you should understand enough about its risks and benefits to be able to make an informed decision. This is known as the informed consent process. Please ask the study investigator or study staff to explain any words you don’t understand before signing this consent form. Make sure all your questions have been answered to your satisfaction before signing this document.

**Procedures**: If you decide to enroll in this study, you will participate in an individual, semi-structured virtual (i.e., telephone or Microsoft Teams) interview conducted by members of the research team. We can send you the questions in advance. Interviews will be scheduled at a date and time convenient for you. Interviews will last approximately 1 hour.

**Voluntary Participation & Early Withdrawal:** Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can choose not to participate or refuse to answer a question, or withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to you. **If you wish to withdraw from the study, your data may still be used unless you tell us otherwise.**

**Risks:** We do not foresee any risks.

**Benefits:** Participants will not benefit directly from this study. However, participants may find satisfaction in the societal and scholarly benefits of the study. The anticipated scholarly benefits of this study include informing future vaccine strategies in Ontario and Canada. By potentially improving the quality and access to vaccines for equity-seeking groups, this research indirectly contributes to the prevention, deterioration, morbidity, and mortality of critically ill patients, thereby improving personal health and the health of the underserved populations.

**Privacy/Confidentiality:**

Audio files, written transcripts, and consent forms will be stored electronically on a password-protected secure network at the University of Toronto. We will store the data for a minimum of 5 years after completion of the study.

Interview audio files and written transcripts will be referred to by participant group number and date completed. Our transcriber does not include any names in the transcripts, only initials, to maintain confidentiality. Therefore, there will not be any identifiable information in the written transcripts used for analysis. The audio files containing names will be stored on a secure password-protected network at the University of Toronto. Research reports will include quotations from participants, but we will only refer to these quotations by workshop number. Research reports will not include any personally identifying information.

All information collected during this study, including your personal health information, will be kept confidential and not be shared with anyone outside the study unless required by law.

**Publication of Research Findings:** We will be preparing manuscripts for publication. The publication will not identify you.

**Compensation:** A $25.00 gift card will be provided to those participating as patients in this study.

**Contact Person:**

If you have any general questions about the study, please call investigator Dr. Monica Aggarwal at 647 381 5534 or by email: monica.aggarwal@utoronto.ca

**If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact Daniel Gyewu, Research Ethics Board Manager, Health Sciences, at** **d.gyewu@utoronto.ca** **or 416-946-5606.**

**Dissemination of Findings:** We will disseminate our findings to administrators, clinicians, policymakers, and other researchers. Specifically, results from this research will be disseminated through leading health service research conferences, including (for e.g., Canadian Association for Health Services research). We will seek publication in leading peer-reviewed medical (i.e., *CMAJ*) journals. We will also circulate a summary of our findings to all research participants.

**Copy of Informed Consent for Participant:** You are given a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.

**Verbal Consent**: I have had the opportunity to discuss this study, and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I voluntarily consent to participate in this study. I may withdraw at any time without any consequences. I have received a signed copy of this consent form.

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Participant’s Name (Please Print) Participant’s Signature Date

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the subject named above. I have answered all questions.

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Name of Person Signature Date