

# #VACCINE FOR ALL

## A COVID-19 Public Health Intervention

Awareness Raising | Vaccination | Partnership Building | Tracking the Evidence



The **World Health Organization's** Programme on Communicable Diseases provides technical guidance and aims at setting up or strengthening ongoing control of common diseases, reducing transmission, mortality, morbidity and human suffering, and gradually eliminating these diseases so that they cease to be a public health problem across the world. This was made possible thanks to the advent of vaccines and proven methods of prevention.

**Vaccines and immunization:** Immunization is a key component of primary health care and an indisputable human right. Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines reduce the risk of getting a disease by working with the body's natural defenses to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds. We now have vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases (WHO).

**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and Vaccine:** The world is in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As individual countries, multilateral institutions including the WHO and partners work together on the response - tracking the pandemic, advising on critical interventions, distributing vital medical supplies to those in need - they are racing to share vaccines across the world.

**#Vaccine for All is therefore a shared aspiration at ICPH and Shanti Ashram.**

**COVID-19 vaccination drive at ICPH and Shanti Ashram:** The Indian Government launched the COVID-19 vaccine drive on 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. ICPH has been involved both at the policy level as well as in coordinating vaccination sessions in partnership with the Government.

**Our comprehensive approach has included the following components:**

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Between January 24<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup> 2021, 2084 people vaccinated through 31 vaccination sessions. We have also been organizing awareness campaigns and interactive sessions to increase awareness and reduce vaccine hesitancy around COVID-19 Vaccination. Simultaneously, we have been identifying subsets of population at risk and data bases are being created for vaccination on priority basis. They include frontline workers, elders, single parents, families living with HIV, people with co-morbidities and young volunteers who are part of COVID-19 response on the ground.

We have also tracked the evidence shared by the World Health Organization and analyzed and presented data from our service villages and interventions through the ICPH's COVID-19 Research & Response Desk.

**ICPH and Shanti Ashram will continue to organize more vaccination sessions as well as invest time and effort in reducing vaccine hesitancy!**

**#VACCINE FOR ALL**



Shanti Ashram

Gandhian center for development, learning and collaboration



Mahatma Gandhi Institute  
for Peace, Leadership and Development



## Vaccination Task Force

@ Shanti Ashram and ICPH was established on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and built systematically on the policy and on-ground work already initiated since April 2020



### The science of vaccination and its contribution to children's well-being and adult health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- ✓ **Public health professionals have always recognised the importance of vaccines and vaccination in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.** WHO, the World Health Organisation, defines public health as “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society” (Acheson, 1988; WHO). It further expands on the overall vision of public health and states that through public health outreach, we will be able to promote greater health and well-being in a sustainable way, while strengthening integrated public health services and reducing inequalities.
- ✓ **We have seen now for the first time in 100 years that if public health is not paid attention to, everything in the world from industry to commerce, from lives to livelihoods, can come to a standstill.** The impact of the pandemic has been particularly devastating on the already deprived and diseased; the vulnerable and poor carry an unequal burden. COVID-19 has shown us that investing in public health is necessary to give ourselves a real chance to build more equal and equitable societies because investing in public health means investing in better health for all.
- ✓ **While it will be impossible for me to describe the impact of vaccines and vaccinations on global health in this short piece,** I would like to point out that this proven disrupter of the pandemic has many parallels in recent history. The world has celebrated the eradication of some deadly diseases like smallpox in 1980 thanks to vaccines, and an impressive array of other vaccines that prevent childhood infectious disease has helped children have more healthy childhoods. The WHO estimates that immunisation currently prevents 4-5 million deaths every year and the measles vaccine alone saved an estimated 17.1 million lives between 2000 and 2015.
- ✓ **The public health approach involves working with other societal institutions and sectors to address the wider determinants of health.** This is where I want to point to the ongoing and successful partnerships that have been established with WHO in the midst of the pandemic. I have been an active part of one such collaboration that has included High-Level Dialogues with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the WHO, and his team to concretely position our spirit, our healthcare institutions, our volunteers, and our resources to fully support WHO's cooperative efforts on ground.
- ✓ **We have raised our voice for vaccine equity, highlighted efforts made to bridge the gaps between science and society,** build on the social and institutional assets that faith communities have in abundance to serve the most vulnerable communities and address the practical impediments to vaccination like vaccine hesitancy and misinformation.

A successful immunisation programme depends on the cooperation of every person and every societal institution. Our faith has moved us to be an ally to science and an instrument to further the common good. In conclusion, allow me to raise these two important questions for your reflection and action.

- Why does it take a world to actively build partnerships to ensure public health?
- What are the distilled learnings from the pandemic for the 7 billion people of this planet?

As you construct your answers to these two questions, let me leave you with the notion of 'interconnectedness' that our faiths have so often spoken to us about while encouraging us to look to our ethics and follow our moral compass to care for one another as a global family. For as Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Faith does not admit of telling alone, it has to be lived in the service of others!"

**Source:** Excerpts from the paper titled '**Ensuring Public Health in an Unequal World: The Critical Importance of Vaccination for a COVID-19 Affected World**' by Dr. Kezevino Aram, President, Shanti Ashram.

Website: [www.icphhealth.org](http://www.icphhealth.org)

### Programme: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021

- 03.45 p.m. **Interfaith Prayer led by the Shanti Ashram staff**
- 03.50 p.m. **Welcome & Context Setting:** Mr. Vijayaragavan, Head, Youth Leadership Programme, Shanti Ashram
- 03.55 p.m. **Public Hearing on the experience of the 'Vaccination Task Force' at Shanti Ashram & ICPH**
- 04.10 p.m. **Vaccination for ALL: Celebrating a Milestone together!**
- Honouring our Partners
  - Thanking the Vaccine Task Force of ICPH and Shanti Ashram
- 04.20 p.m. **De-constructing the success and understanding 'ownership' in this context**  
Ms. Ramya Devaraj, COVID 19 Research & Response Desk, Shanti Ashram
- 04.40 p.m. **Special Address by Dr.M. Ramaswamy**  
Honorary Medical Director, Masonic Medical Centre for Children  
Mentor, International Center for Child and Public Health (ICPH)  
**Felicitation by Dr. Dinesh Periyaswamy, Medical Officer, South Zone, Coimbatore**
- 04.50p.m. **Conclusion and Way Ahead** Dr. Kezevino Aram, President, Shanti Ashram





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### Vaccine Task Force @ Shanti Ashram & ICPH

1. Mr.Vijayaragavan
2. Dr.Jayanthi Ramesh
3. Dr. Subhadra Iyengar  
**ICPH**
4. Ms. R.Ranisha
5. Ms Sumana  
**Youth Leadership Programme**
6. Ms.Thangakili
7. Ms. Manimegalai  
**Bala Shanti Programme**
8. Ms. S.Jeeva
9. Ms. N.L.Eshwari  
**Sustainable Development Programme**
10. Ms. Monica Cristina  
**COVID 19 Research & Response Desk**
11. Ms.Ramya Devaraj  
**Youth Representatives**
12. Ms.R.Srinandhu
13. Ms.Anjelin Selven
14. Mr.Aakash.R
15. Ms.Dhanyashree
16. Mr.Aditya Narayanan

All staff are **100% vaccinated**  
**@ Shanti Ashram**  
**@the International Center for  
Child and Public Health (ICPH)**

**Active days: 243**  
**Vaccination sessions: 31 sessions**  
**People vaccinated: 2084**  
**Villages covered: 43**  
**Collaborating partners: 10**

**Partners: We are grateful to all the partners!**



