



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE**

# Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



## International Research Review

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### Variants: what we know now

Multiple new coronavirus variants have been discovered across several continents, from Europe to Africa to South America, and they are spreading across the globe rapidly. Some of these variants may be more resistant to antibody neutralization, however, it is still unclear where this translates to reduced vaccine-induced immune protection. A better understanding of these variants is critical to inform public health measures.

[Read Summary](#)

### Vaccine news

With the emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants and vaccine supply shortages, there is an urgent need to have more vaccines approved. A recent pre-print by Krammer's group reported that individuals with pre-existing immunity had antibody titers that are equal to or even exceed the titers found in naïve individuals after the second dose. This and other vaccine related news are covered in our blog.

[Read Summary](#)

## Several researchers find immune response lasts at least 8 months post-symptom onset

Circulating antibody responses wane over time, but several recent articles described a functional and long-lasting immune response to SARS-CoV-2 observed for at least 8 months post-symptom onset. The number of SARS-CoV-2-specific memory B cells increased over time in most subjects, independent of disease severity. Several research groups explored different aspects of this phenomenon.

[Read Summary](#)



## Spotlight on CITF-funded Research

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### Better protecting paramedics: Researchers study how many paramedics have had COVID-19 and will investigate how long antibodies last

The study, led by Dr. Brian Grunau at the University of British Columbia, seeks to recruit 5,000 paramedics in BC and Ontario to look at risk factors associated with COVID-19, infection rates and immunity measures in paramedics, including in those who have already been vaccinated.

[Read More](#)



## The CITF: Work to Date and Ahead

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### **Timeline encapsulating the evolving agenda of our Task Force**

In any viral pandemic, effective responses are heavily influenced by the virus itself: its virulence, infectivity and patterns of spread, seasonality, ratios of symptomatic to asymptomatic cases, induced immune responses, and mutations over time. Various public health measures are deployed to prevent and respond to epidemic waves, until eradication is achieved, or a very high level of background immunity is reached.

[Read More](#)



## Request for Applications

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### **Assessing the safety and effectiveness of current and future SARS-CoV-2 vaccines deployed in Canada**

The Canadian **Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG)**, in partnership with the CITF, and with the support of the Public Health Agency of Canada, is inviting the Canadian research community to apply for funding to assess the safety and effectiveness of current and future SARS-CoV-2 vaccines deployed in Canada. This is a fast-tracked process.

[Learn More](#)



## Share your Research

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