



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Announcements

CITF Databank adds more study results

The CITF Databank now includes information from 21 studies representing approximately 133,000 participants. The data are from 17 longitudinal studies, and there are serology data from 18 studies. The CITF Databank is free to access for researchers from anywhere in the world to conduct their own research.

[Read more](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is highly immunogenic and safe in people who have

received an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant

A CITF-funded study, published in *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*, found that a fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is highly immunogenic (induces a good immune response) and safe in people who have received an allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT).

[Read more](#)

Vaccination helps reduce workplace absenteeism among Canadian healthcare workers

A CITF-funded study, published in the *Journal of Occupation and Environmental Medicine*, found that Canadian healthcare workers who had a positive SARS-CoV-2 test and were vaccinated against COVID-19 were less absent from work. Absenteeism from work declined with each vaccine dose and also declined when provincial guidelines made provision for early return to work based on clinical necessity (early call-back). Healthcare workers returned to work faster as the pandemic progressed.

[Read more](#)

Educating adults about COVID-19 vaccines is essential to promote vaccine confidence

A CITF-funded review, published in *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, found that, among various strategies for promoting vaccine confidence, educational interventions were introduced to support individuals in their vaccine decisions by building COVID-19 vaccine knowledge and confidence. Group-based and formal presentations were the most frequently used. Recognized community leaders who were familiar to and aligned with the priority population audience, both demographically and linguistically, were often involved in the development and dissemination of COVID-19 vaccination information to establish trust.

[Read more](#)

Gay, bisexual, queer, and other men who have sex with men (GBQM) of colour faced discrimination during COVID-19

A CITF-funded study, published in the *International Journal of Equity Health*, found that many gay, bisexual, queer, and other men who have sex with men (GBQM) of colour faced racial discrimination during COVID-19. Participants reported that experiences of racism affected how they were treated within their sexual networks. Racism remains a harmful and pervasive threat to the well-being of GBQM of colour. Sexualized and gendered discourses about race shape the experiences of GBQM of colour navigating multiple epidemics like COVID-19 and HIV.

[Read more](#)

Two doses of Moderna vaccine effective against SARS-CoV-2 infection and hospitalization in children aged 6 months to 5 years

A CITF-funded study, published in preprint and not yet peer-reviewed, found that a second dose of the Moderna vaccine was associated with reduced symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection (vaccine effectiveness [VE]=90%), as well as reduced COVID-19-related hospitalization (VE=82%) in children aged 6 months to 5 years.

[Read more](#)

Extracellular vesicles promote the recovery of heart function

A CITF-funded study, published in preprint and not yet peer-reviewed, provided valuable insights into the mechanisms of myocardial inflammation and its effects on heart function using a heart-on-a-chip model. The findings highlight the potential of using extracellular vesicles as a treatment strategy for managing SARS-CoV-2-induced heart dysfunction.

[Read more](#)

CITF-funded findings on the importance of community engagement in research

Social and economic inequities, and related unequal access to health resources, increase risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe COVID-19 outcomes. Developing relationships that connect researchers with community and local health leaders fosters trust. Partnering with communities is key to furthering COVID-19 research and improving vaccine confidence. Here, the CITF Secretariat summarizes results from research collaborations with Indigenous communities, Black Canadians, and isolated or vulnerable groups, based on four presentations given during the breakout session, “The importance of community engagement in research,” at the CITF Scientific Meeting in Vancouver, March 8-10, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CITF-funded findings on vaccine responses in people with compromised immune systems

Studies showed that in most immune-compromised individuals, booster doses were necessary and safe to boost much needed antibody and cell-mediated immunity levels, as their waning seems to occur faster. Here, the CITF Secretariat summarizes key data for people living with HIV, cancer, and autoimmune diseases from the four presentations given during the breakout session, “Vaccine responses in people with compromised immune systems,” at the CITF Scientific Meeting in Vancouver. March 8-10, 2023.

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