



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



CITF Event

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 | 1 P.M. EDT | ONLINE

**Presenting the latest
seroprevalence results from across
Canada: what they mean for the
future of our pandemic response**

HOSTED BY



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

GRUPE DE TRAVAIL
SUR L'IMMUNITÉ
FACE À LA COVID-19

IN COLLABORATION WITH



HÉMA-QUÉBEC



Canadian
Blood
Services



As Canada crests the worst of Wave 3, the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) is hosting an online event in collaboration with Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec to share the latest seroprevalence results from blood donors across Canada. Representatives from all three organizations will give an overview and an analysis of the data, including through the CITF's new modelling efforts, to provide researchers, academics and policymakers with a clear and detailed reading of what they mean for the future of our pandemic response.

[Register](#)



Spotlight on CITF-funded Research

New Canada-Wide Research to Study Mixing-and-Matching COVID-19 vaccines

The CITF and the Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG) are supporting a new nation-wide study to look at the effects of ‘mixing-and-matching’ approved COVID-19 vaccines in adults. The study will assess the safety and effectiveness of using two different COVID-19 vaccines for the first and second dose. The project will also study the effects of increasing the interval between doses.

[Read More](#)

Canadian researchers studying effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy

The CITF and the Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG) are supporting two Canadian research teams to further evaluate vaccine safety and effectiveness in pregnant people.

[Read More](#)



Publications from our Experts

‘Made-in-Canada’ assays perform well to measure seroprevalence

A recent preprint by CITF Testing Working Group members Dr. Anne-Claude Gingras from University of Toronto, and Dr. Steven Drews from Canadian Blood Services, not yet peer reviewed, compared multiple assays and concluded ‘Made-in-Canada’ ones performed well.

[Read Summary](#)

Promising results from two Canadian COVID-19 vaccines

Some of our experts are involved in the testing of Canadian COVID-19 vaccines. Two recent pre-prints highlight promising results from Providence Therapeutics’ mRNA vaccine and from Medicago’s plant-based vaccine. Although at different stages of development, both vaccines are presented as highly immunogenic and safe.

[Read Summary](#)

Can vitamin D supplements prevent acute respiratory infections like SARS-CoV-2? Recent evidence from a systematic review and meta-analysis

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is increased interest in vitamin D and its role in supporting innate immune responses to respiratory viruses, including SARS-CoV-2. CITF-funded researcher and member of the CITF Pediatric Network Dr. Jonathon Maguire from University

of Toronto, contributed to a systematic review and meta-analysis recently published in *The Lancet* which showed that vitamin D supplementation was safe and overall reduced the risk of acute respiratory infections compared to a placebo control.

[Read Summary](#)



International Research Review

Extended interval between first and second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine enhances antibody response in older people

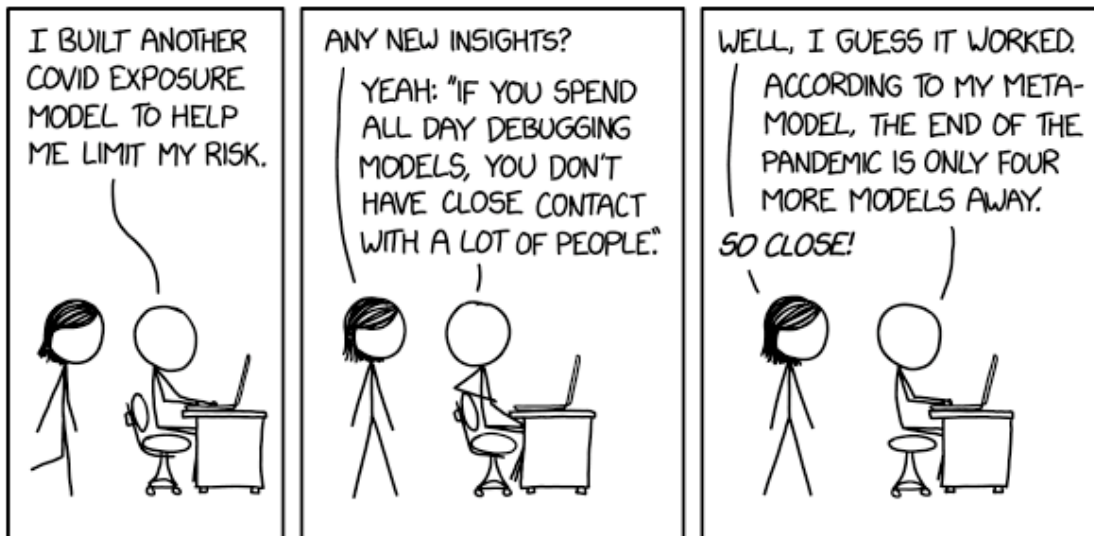
Researchers from the University of Birmingham recruited a cohort of older adults to compare the immune response from the standard dosing schedule to that of an extended interval dosing schedule for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. In this pre-print, therefore not yet peer-reviewed, the researchers suggest that a dose interval of 12 weeks results in an antibody response 3.5-fold higher than the currently recommended dose interval of three weeks.

[Read Summary](#)

Will vaccines work against the troublesome new variant first identified in India? Scientists think SO.

The Indian subcontinent is reeling from an unprecedented second wave of COVID-19 infections since March 2021 due to the emergence of a new variant, B.1.617. Recently, three pre-print articles have been published examining the evolution of this variant, while providing insights on mechanisms that may be contributing to its rampant spread, including to Canada.

Beating the pandemic blues



Comic thanks to xkcd.com



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