



**COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



Spotlight on CITF-funded Research

Equity and design are key to successful vaccine passport programs in Canada

Commonly called vaccine passports, immunization records or documents indicating vaccination status will be important as certain parts of the world begin to reopen. Many Canadians see vaccine passports or vaccine certificates as a necessary step to re-enter public spaces and events; others are concerned that the need to disclose vaccine information may affect their rights. In a working paper published by the C.D. Howe Institute, CITF-funded researcher Dr. Kumanan Wilson and colleagues from the University of Ottawa evaluate potential legal hurdles regarding the disclosure of information on vaccine status in Canada including Charter and privacy rights.

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Tracking health events after vaccination: latest results from CANVAS-COVID

The CANVAS-COVID study, funded by the CITF/Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG), has been collecting self-reported information on

health events following vaccination. The most common health event following vaccination, experienced by 52% of participants enrolled, was temporary pain/swelling/redness at the site of injection. The study also provides reassuring data on the extremely low incidence of serious side effects, emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Results are updated weekly on their website and can be accessed [here](#).

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Publications from our Experts

Sewage can reveal the true spread of SARS-CoV-2 in a community

Wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 involves testing sewage for SARS-CoV-2 RNA, which if present, would suggest some level of infection in the source population. In a recent preprint, therefore not yet peer-reviewed, researchers present a computational model to better understand the dynamics between transmission of the virus in a community and its concentration in the wastewater. The model was tested using data from six wastewater treatment plants in three Canadian cities: Ottawa, Toronto, and Edmonton, the latter in collaboration with CITF-funded researchers Drs. Xiaoli Pang and Bonita Lee. The authors of the preprint note that in addition to clinical PCR testing, wastewater surveillance can enhance our knowledge of local outbreaks, allowing public health authorities to step in and act much sooner.

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How effective are the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca vaccines against the delta variant?

In a recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, researchers from the UK have estimated the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing symptomatic disease caused by the delta or alpha variants. One dose of the Pfizer or the AstraZeneca vaccine was less than 50% effective against symptomatic COVID-19 caused by delta or alpha. However, when two doses of Pfizer were administered, an 88% effectiveness was observed against the delta variant specifically; two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine also showed a 67% effectiveness against delta.

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Life course health outcomes of children born to mothers with COVID-19

Maternal COVID-19 infection has resulted in elevated rates of preterm birth and low birth weight. According to a recent publication in *JAMA Pediatrics*, exposure to maternal COVID-19 infection may have broader implications on newborns later in life, suggesting a potential risk for long-term health outcomes among these individuals. Given the novelty of the virus, evidence regarding long-term implications nevertheless remains lacking. Further longitudinal studies are required to determine if children born to mothers infected with COVID-19 face a higher risk of negative long-term health outcomes compared to counterparts born to mothers not infected with COVID-19. Available observations from life course studies in previous pandemics suggest that these infants should be followed up over a long period of time.

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