



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



CITF Event



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

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



CanCOVID

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

Risks and impacts of the COVID-19
pandemic on Canada's kids, their
parents, and teachers: Latest research
results and policy implications



September 29, 2021 | 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT

New series with CanCOVID

Canadian children have just headed back to school. What risks do they face as the under-12s remain unvaccinated? What are the longer-term impacts of school closures, mitigation measures, and uncertainty on children, school staff, parents, and caregivers across Canada?

Join us for the first event in this series with CanCOVID for a presentation from six CITF funded teams, as they will unveil their latest results. Stay for a

frank discussion regarding the potential policy implications and to participate in a question-and-answer period.

[Register Now](#)



Spotlight on CITF-funded Research

COVID has led to changes in the sexual behavior and access to healthcare among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM)

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM) often experience significant health disparities that may act as barriers to needed health services. As part of their CITF-funded research, Dr. Daniel Grace from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Dr. Nathan Lachowsky from the University of Victoria, along with colleagues from the ongoing Engage Study, sought to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on GBM living in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Preliminary results, presented in poster format and upcoming oral presentations, suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to changes in the sexual behavior of many GBM, as well as significant healthcare access disruptions.

[Read More](#)

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

The CANVAS-COVID study, funded by the CITF/Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG), has collected self-reported information on health events following vaccination in more than one million Canadians so far. The core findings indicate that the incidence of serious side effects, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations following COVID-19 vaccination remain

exceedingly rare. Results from the CANVAS-COVID study are updated weekly on their website and can be accessed [here](#).

[Read More](#)



Publications from our Experts

Are people with autoimmune disease more likely to have COVID-19?

A study by researchers at the University of Toronto, in collaboration with CITF-funded researcher Dr. Sasha Bernatsky from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, observed that people with autoimmune diseases had the same proportion of SARS-CoV-2 positive tests and a similar disease incidence compared to the general population in 2020. However, testing for COVID-19 is higher than in the general population. Their results are published in *Arthritis Care & Research*.

[Read More](#)

Mental health concerns among sexual health service clients in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic

In a recent Short Communication in *Preventive Medicine*, CITF Leadership Group member Dr. Gina Ogilvie, CITF-funded researcher Dr. Daniel Grace and colleagues explore the mental health of sexual health service clients, an example of a marginalized community. They found that 55% of respondents self-rated their mental health as being poor at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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International Research Review

COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization and emergency department visits: a comparison

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing hospitalizations and emergency department visits caused by the Delta variant, according to several recent publications. The data also indicate that Moderna's vaccine is significantly more effective against Delta than Pfizer-BioNTech or Johnson & Johnson's Janssen.

[Read Summary](#)

Humoral immunity to seasonal coronaviruses may be associated with better outcomes in COVID-19

People infected with SARS-CoV-2 can experience a wide range of outcomes, ranging from asymptomatic infection to severe disease and death. While emerging evidence indicates that antibodies may represent a major correlate of protection, the specific mechanisms by which they influence overall disease outcomes is unknown. In this pre-print, not yet peer-reviewed, Kaplonek et al. conducted an in-depth profiling of the humoral immune response to infection in a large cohort of individuals with asymptomatic, moderate, or severe disease during the acute phase of infection (0-12 days post-symptom onset).



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