



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



CITF Events



COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

GROUPE 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

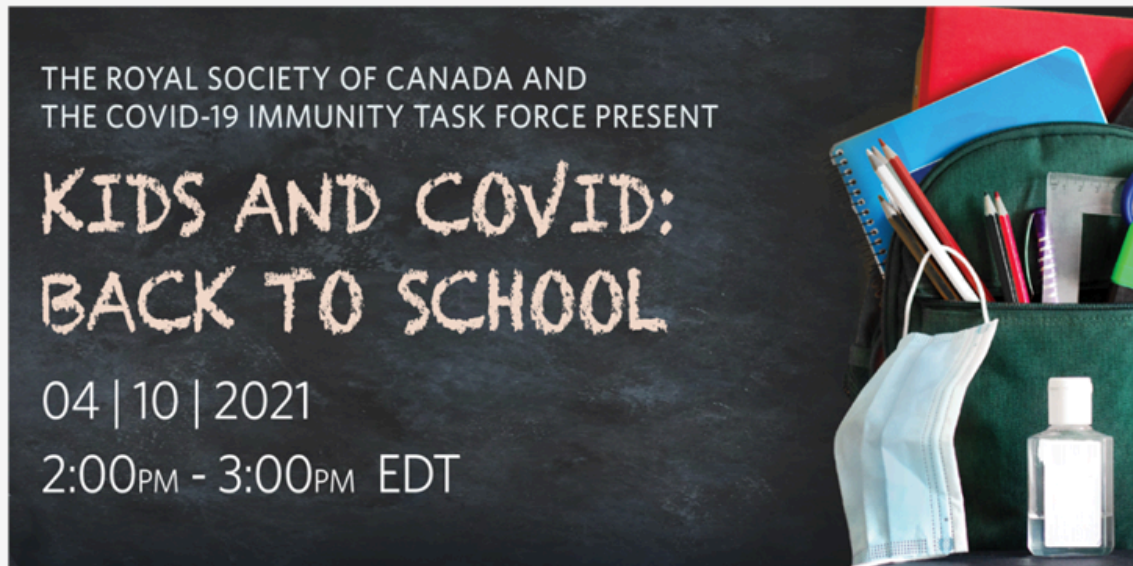
Tomorrow with CanCOVID for policymakers, researchers & the public!

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 **tomorrow** for the first event in our series with CanCOVID. Six CITF-funded research teams focussing on children, their parents, and school staff

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](#)



On Monday with the Royal Society of Canada for the public! Please share!

A month after children in Canada went back to school, Canadians have many questions about their safety, the plans for vaccines, and the cumulative impacts of the pandemic on the mental and social well-being of our children.

The Royal Society of Canada and the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force are partnering to host a free, virtual town hall available to all Canadians to share the latest insights and likely next steps. CITF Pediatric Network Chair Dr. Jim Kellner and Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group Co-Chair Dr. Caroline Quach will be among four panellists discussing the latest information in the pandemic relating to kids and schools to help enlighten Canadians.

[Register for this free event](#)



Publications from our Experts

Canada's monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine safety

Vaccine safety is evaluated by tracking adverse events following immunization to determine whether such events are linked to the vaccine. Drs. Karina Top, Julie Bettinger, and Jeffrey Kwong describe their critical efforts for monitoring COVID-19 vaccine safety in Canada, efforts all supported by the CITF and Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group.

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 serology tests are not all the same, but they are all useful!

An international team of experts conducted a multi-laboratory evaluation of 21 commercial high-throughput assays used in laboratories to determine whether someone has antibodies to SARS CoV-2 proteins, using 1,000 blood-donor samples. CITF Testing Working Party Lead Dr. Mel Krajden and Testing Working Party member Dr. Steven Kleinman were among the experts involved.

[Read More](#)

Pregnancy and the Risk of Severe COVID-19 Infection: Methodologic Challenges and Research Recommendations

This commentary from Dr. David Savitz and CITF-funded researcher Dr. Deshayne Fell outlines specific methods that should be implemented in research to more effectively assess the risk of severe COVID-19 among pregnant individuals. The article touches upon methodological challenges including increased surveillance, enhanced clinical responses to illness, and

confounding. It also gives an overview of the current evidence on COVID-19 and pregnancy while offering study design and analysis strategies to strengthen causal inference.

[Read More](#)



International Research Review

To boost or not to boost? Considerations towards administering an additional COVID-19 dose

Rising COVID-19 cases spurred by the highly transmissible Delta variant have led policymakers and researchers to consider the need for vaccine booster doses. The goals: reduce the number of COVID-19 cases and enhance immunity in vaccinated people. Although tempting, these decisions should be evidence-based and consider the benefits and risks for individuals and society as a whole. Recent publications and recommendations are described and discussed.

[Read Summary](#)

Vaccines for children coming soon, but how do we keep schools safe?

On September 20th, 2021, Pfizer-BioNtech announced preliminary results from its phase 2/3 trial in children ages 5 to 11 with a two-dose vaccine scheme. With this information, regulatory agencies can now assess the safety and efficacy of the vaccine on their end with the aim of approving the lower dose of this vaccine in children. However, non-vaccine strategies need to remain in place to ensure that all schools remain safe environments. Which non-vaccine strategy to choose? One study in the UK provided a pathway to limit school disruptions by using a testing strategy.



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