



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF Events



CHANGE OF DATE!

Please take note! The 3rd event in our CITF/CanCOVID Seminar Series: Research Results & Implications, looking at the impact of COVID-19 disease & vaccination on pregnancy and newborns, will take place:

Monday, December 20, 2021 11:30 am – 1:00 pm EST

CITF-funded experts Dr. **Deshayne Fell** of the University of Ottawa and the

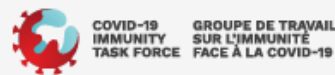
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute; Dr. **Deborah Money** of the University of British Columbia and BC Women's Hospital; and Dr. **Deborah O'Connor** of the University of Toronto will present their latest findings, which have been used to help inform decision making. Their presentations will be followed by a lively question and answer session.

Registration link to come!



Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

Protecting Canada's long-term care residents from COVID-19: The evidence behind the policies



Watch the seminar on protecting Canada's long-term care residents from COVID-19

Now available, video of the second CITF/CanCOVID seminar series on immunity among residents and staff in long-term care homes, as well as older adults living in the community.

[Watch the seminar](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

COVID infections in children and teens continue to rise, study finds

CITF-funded researcher Dr. Kate Zinszer, from the Université de Montréal, and her EnCORE study team have released additional preliminary, non-peer reviewed results indicating an increase in the number of Montreal youth aged 2 to 17 with antibodies due to a SARS-CoV-2 infection in recent months. They found that 9.7% of participants had antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 between May and August 2021, whereas 5.8% had antibodies between October 2020 and March 2021. The parents of 86% of the participants reported their children over 12 were vaccinated or that they intended to have their child vaccinated against COVID-19 when vaccines are available.

[Read More](#)

One in five vaccinated long-term care residents at risk of COVID-19 because of low antibody levels, supporting need for booster shots

Findings from a CITF-funded study led by Drs. Andrew Costa and Dawn Bowdish at McMaster University helped inform the federal government's decision to recommend a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for long-term care residents. More than 97% of residents produced an antibody response following two doses of vaccination that was likely to provide protection against the virus in the month after the jab. However, three to five months following the second dose, researchers found a drop in antibody levels in about 20% of residents, to the point where their antibody levels may not be high enough to provide effective protection. Their research is published in *The Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*.

[Read More](#)

Incarcerated individuals face an increased risk of acquiring COVID-19

Congregate settings (such as prisons, long-term care homes) allow for the rapid spread of COVID-19. As part of her CITF-funded study in three provincial prisons in Quebec, Dr. Nadine Kronfli from the Research Institute

of the McGill University Health Centre found that of the 1,100 incarcerated men sampled, 22% were seropositive for a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. These findings were recently released in a Lancet preprint, therefore not yet peer reviewed.

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A test to help diagnose vaccine-induced clotting disorders

CITF-funded researcher Dr. Ishac Nazy and researchers affiliated with the McMaster Platelet Immunology Laboratory have found a novel method for diagnosing very rare cases of blood clotting disorders following immunization with mRNA vaccines. This test could significantly improve the early detection of vaccine-induced thrombocytopenia (VIT). The findings are published in *Blood Advances*.

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