



COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

# Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



## International Research Review

### **Several studies suggest single dose of vaccine provides strong protection for people who have recovered from COVID-19**

Several studies have shown that a single dose of the coronavirus mRNA vaccine can induce a strong immune response in people with previous infection – strong enough to possibly protect them from future disease. These reports, including two new papers published in *The Lancet* at the end of February, and their implications in terms of vaccine deployment policies, are summarized here.

[Read Summary](#)

### **The never-ending battle for many COVID-19 patients**

A negative test may not necessarily mean the end of a case of COVID-19. Many individuals continue to suffer from debilitating symptoms such as fatigue, cough, and joint and chest pain for as long as six months. A

summary of the latest research on long COVID (also known as chronic COVID syndrome or long-haul COVID) is found here.

[Read Summary](#)

## **New SARS-CoV-2 VOC in New York City, on-going challenges & advancements**

The global emergence of multiple variants of concern (VOCs) has led to increasing efforts to sequence viruses in multiple localized communities around the world. To date, a number of these variants have been shown to potentially render antibody-based therapies ineffective at controlling the virus. Now, a new B.1.526 variant has emerged in New York City, rapidly becoming the primary variant in that region. While this variant may limit the usefulness of antibody-based therapies, new teams are working on developing original antibody clones that will be better poised to meet these emerging VOCs.

[Read Summary](#)



## **Spotlight on CITF-funded Research**

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### **Passport to normal: CITF researcher Kumanan Wilson comments on the future of immunity passports**

With vaccine coverage on the horizon, many people are starting to think about how to document immunization. In this article, CITF-funded researcher Dr. Kumanan Wilson from the University of Ottawa and the Bruyère Research Institute and colleague Colleen Flood from the University of Ottawa, discuss how SARS-CoV-2 immunization passports could work, the infrastructure required to operationalize them, and potential barriers and limitations to their use.

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## **COVID-19 should be considered in all hospitalized children**

One of the CITF's scientific advisors collaborated in a study that followed hospitalized children with a diagnosis of COVID-19. The study, carried out in Canada, Iran, and Costa Rica, found that approximately half of the children diagnosed with a SARS-CoV-2 infection during hospitalization were originally admitted with another diagnosis.

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## **Pan-Canadian studies investigate why COVID-19 has been so devastating to long-term care facility residents and staff**

Long-term care facilities have been disproportionately burdened by COVID-19, accounting for about 60% of COVID-19 deaths nationwide, 70% if retirement homes are included. Two more studies have begun investigating various aspects of immunity and people's response to vaccines within long-term care facilities in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

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## **Study underway in Nova Scotia long-term care facilities to determine health factors related to severe COVID-19 outcomes and vaccine effectiveness**

Another study, this one in Nova Scotia, aims to determine which health factors cause long-term care residents to experience severe COVID-19 outcomes, including death. The study is also investigating vaccine effectiveness in this elderly population over the next year. It will be carried out by a team of experts in frailty research, immunology, virology and clinical infectious disease.

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## Three Canadian studies will help determine how many teachers may have had COVID-19

Three research projects, out of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, will estimate how many teachers and school personnel have been infected with SARS-CoV-2. The studies will also evaluate the effects of the pandemic on teachers' mental health.

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## Share your Research

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