



COVID-19 IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

# Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



## CITF Events



COVID-19  
IMMUNITY  
TASK FORCE

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



CanCOVID

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

## The importance of pediatric vaccination



March 23, 2022 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT

### REGISTER NOW FOR TOMORROW'S SEMINAR!

The Public Health Agency of Canada estimates that immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health intervention. Join us on **Wednesday March 23, 2022 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT)** for our next *Research Results & Implications* seminar, ***The importance of pediatric vaccination***, where CITF experts will address 1) how vaccines and infection work in a child's immune system, 2) recent estimates of seroprevalence among children, 3) why COVID-19 can be serious for

children, even if infected with the Omicron variant, and 4) vaccine safety among children.

**Panelists:**

**Timothy Evans, MD, PhD**

Executive Director of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

**Jim Kellner, MD**

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist; Professor, Pediatrics, University of Calgary; Member, CITF Leadership Group; Leader, CITF Pediatric Network

**Jonathon Maguire, MD**

Professor, Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto; Scientist with MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital; Pediatrician, Department of Pediatrics, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

**Manish Sadarangani, BM, BCh, DPhil**

Director, Vaccine Evaluation Center, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute;

Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, UBC; Physician Lead, Family Immunization Clinic, BC Children's Hospital

**Kate Zinszer, PhD**

Assistant Professor at l'École de santé publique, Université de Montréal; Researcher at the Centre for Public Health Research (CReSP)

[Register now](#)



## CITF-Funded Research Results

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**Impact of Omicron wave apparent in Canadian Blood Services' January data**

Most Canadian blood donors exhibited some form of immunity against SARS-CoV-2 in January 2022, primarily due to vaccination. Nonetheless, infection-acquired seroprevalence increased sharply between December 2021 and the end of January 2022, nearly tripling from 6.4% to 16.3%. Almost a quarter of donors aged 17-24 were seropositive for infection-acquired antibodies (22.2%).

[Read More](#)



## From Pre-print to Publication

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### **Dried blood spots can be a reliable test to detect SARS-CoV-2 antibodies**

In a study now published in *Microbiology Spectrum*, a team of Vancouver investigators, led by Dr. Agatha Jassem of the British Columbia Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) and partially funded by the CITF, demonstrated that dried blood spot (DBS) testing should be considered reliable in detecting SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity acquired from both natural infection and vaccination.

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