



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

COVID-19 vaccine safety



COVID-19 IMMUNITY TASK FORCE
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR L'IMMUNITÉ FACE À LA COVID-19



Video available now!

See the recording of our May 5th seminar on COVID-19 vaccine safety during which CITF-affiliated experts addressed the results of ongoing safety monitoring in Canada; vaccine safety among adults, children, and pregnant populations; details about and strategies to mitigate serious adverse effects; and more.



CITF-Funded Research Results

30% of Canadian Blood Services donors infected with SARS-CoV-2 by end of March 2022

Consistent with the ongoing transmission of the Omicron variant, infection-acquired seropositivity increased gradually in the blood donor community throughout March, from 27% to 30%. The newest Canadian Blood Services (CBS) data emphasize the persisting inequities in infection burden among young adults, racialized communities, and those residing in lower-income neighbourhoods. In their latest report, CBS also estimate that 30% of unvaccinated blood donors had evidence of a recent infection with the virus, compared to about 18% of vaccinated donors.

[Read more](#)

SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy associated with increased risk of adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes

A CITF-funded study published in *JAMA* observed that SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy was significantly associated with an increased risk of adverse maternal outcomes and preterm births in those who were unvaccinated. None of those pregnant who had received at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine experienced any adverse maternal outcomes.

[Read more](#)

COVID-19 lockdowns may be to blame for off-

season resurgences of respiratory syncytial virus

A paper published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* revealed that infants and women of childbearing age exhibited a profound loss of antibodies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) after one year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Likely contributors include natural waning of RSV immunity and a lack of exposure to the virus due to pandemic mitigation measures. These results have important implications for the recent resurgences of RSV infections.

[Read more](#)



Preprint to publication

Study shows booster doses elicit strong antibody responses including against Omicron

A paper published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* showed that a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine elevated both the levels of antibodies and their neutralizing capacity above that of two doses in all individuals, including older adults. The research team also showed that a third dose stimulated stronger responses against the Omicron variant than that which was seen after two doses.

[Read more](#)

Reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 rare among Canadian healthcare workers during pre-Omicron days

A paper published in *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* shows that reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 among healthcare workers (HCW) was rare: only 6 cases among 569 participants in the study. The study looked at HCW over 14 months during the first wave of the pandemic. Although antibodies

waned in subjects infected prior to vaccination, those who experienced more severe infections retained antibodies for over a year, while those who were asymptomatic had antibodies for about 7 months.

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