



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



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

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

The Omicron tsunami



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

COMING NEXT WEEK!

Our 8th Research Results & Implications seminar will bring together CITF-affiliated experts to discuss how the Omicron variant changed the course of the pandemic by rapidly infecting hundreds of millions of healthy people around the globe, spurring the distribution of additional vaccine doses to boost immunity. What do we know and what's next? Our presenters will report on:

1. The extent and nature of Omicron infection in Canada and around the globe;
2. How Omicron evaded existing immunity to spread so widely;
3. The notion of hybrid immunity, and how infection-acquired and vaccine-induced immunity can function together; and
4. Those at greatest risk of COVID-19 and why.

Presenters include:

- **David Buckeridge, MD, PhD, FRCPC**, Professor in the School of Population and Global Health at McGill University; Scientific Lead, Data Management & Analysis, CITF.
- **Harriet Ware, MSc**, Data Scientist, University of Toronto, on behalf of CITF-funded SeroTracker.
- **Ciriaco Piccirillo, PhD**, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, McGill University; CITF-funded researcher.
- **Michael Grant, PhD**, Professor of Immunology and Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland; CITF-funded researcher.

And hosting on behalf of the CITF:

- **Catherine Hankins, MD, PhD**, Co-Chair, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

[Register Now](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Nearly 40% of Canadian adults have had an Omicron infection: Canadian Blood Services

Consistent with the ongoing transmission of the Omicron variant, infection-acquired seropositivity increased among blood donors in Canada throughout April, from 33% at the beginning of the month to 40% by the end. The unvaccinated had a higher chance of getting a SARS-CoV-2 infection: 37% of unvaccinated blood donors had evidence of a previous infection, compared to 22% of vaccinated donors. With breakthrough infections among vaccinated donors having increased from 5.2% in January 2022 to 22% in April 2022, the data support the need for people to get a third vaccine and, where recommended, a fourth dose to enhance protection.

[Read more](#)

Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies at the beginning of the COVID-19 immunization campaign in Alberta

The proportion of individuals who tested positive for antibodies against the receptor binding domain (RBD), acquired from infection and/or vaccination, rose from 11.9% in March 2021 to 70.2% in July 2021 in Alberta. While this increase is primarily driven by vaccines, the study found that RBD antibody seropositivity rose from 9.4% in March to 20.2% in July among unvaccinated individuals, which would be attributable to infections. The findings are published in *Infectious Diseases*.

[Read more](#)

The impact of COVID-19 vaccines for patients with chronic kidney disease

Drs. Matthew Oliver and Peter Blake published an editorial in the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* assessing the clinical impact of COVID-19 vaccines on protecting people living with chronic kidney disease (CKD). They review multiple studies and the impact of study designs on determining vaccine effectiveness in this population, as well as their mechanisms of evaluating the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on the CKD population.

[Read more](#)



Preprint to Publication

Estimating pre-pandemic rates of certain medical conditions to help inform current COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance

A study now published in *Vaccine* tracked the incidence of nine different medical conditions in the five years preceding the pandemic (2015-2019) and in the first year of the pandemic (2020). These estimates, called background rates, can then be compared with the rates following the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines and facilitate the detection of vaccine safety signals.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcement



June issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*: Available now!

The latest issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features a review of hybrid immunity that shows why those who have been infected still need to be fully vaccinated, research showing how the Omicron tsunami affected Canada and that a high proportion of those who have been infected do not produce antibodies, and more.

[Read more](#)



Share!

Know policymakers or researchers who may be interested in our latest research results? Please share this email and encourage them to subscribe!

[Sign Up](#)

Have a publication we should review or know about? Please share with us at research@covid19immunitytaskforce.ca

Missed an issue of Research Roundup? [View back issues.](#)

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the
Public Health Agency of Canada.