



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



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

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

COVID-19 and older Canadians: Where are we now?



October 18, 2022 | 2:30-4:00 p.m. EDT

The COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) supports research projects looking at various aspects of COVID-19 infection and immunity in older Canadians. Our 10th *Research Results and Implications* seminar will assemble several CITF-funded researchers to update us on their latest findings and answer questions such as:

- How important are boosters for those aged 70+?
- Should older Canadians be masking, distancing, and limiting their social interactions indoors?

- Is the risk of getting COVID-19 higher if you're living in a long-term care (LTC) home, or, if you're 70+ living in the community?
- Will infection prevention and control measures implemented in LTC homes due to COVID-19 have a long-term positive impact in warding off other infections in these settings?
- Is it safe to put your loved ones in LTC homes these days in Canada?

Presentations from several CITF-funded studies will be followed by a panel discussion. Presenters will then take questions from the audience.

Moderator:

Samir Sinha, MD, DPhil, FRCPC, Director of Geriatrics, Mount Sinai and University Health Network Hospitals, Toronto; Provincial Lead, Ontario's Seniors Strategy; Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto; Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Confirmed panelists:

- **Zabrina Brumme, PhD**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University; Director of Laboratories, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS; CITF-funded researcher
- **Andrew Costa, PhD**, Schlegel Research Chair in Clinical Epidemiology & Aging and Associate Professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University; Scientific Director, St. Joseph's Centre for Integrated Care, Hamilton; CITF-funded researcher
- **Timothy Evans, MD, PHD**, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force
- **Allison McGeer, MSc, MD, FRCPC**, Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, and Senior Clinician Scientist and Infectious Disease Physician, Sinai Health System, Toronto; CITF-funded researcher
- **Sharon Walmsley, MSc, MD, FRCPC**, Senior Scientist, Toronto General Hospital Research Institute; Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto; CITF-funded researcher

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Seminar Series
Research Results & Implications

The Eighth Wave

Challenges and predictions for an uncertain future



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in collaboration with



CoVaRR+Net

The summary from our last seminar is now available

Our summary features an overview of presentations from our experts projecting how many infections may be ahead of us this fall, what it means to be “up-to-date” with vaccinations, the prospects for next generation vaccines, how to protect oneself against infection, where we stand three years and seven waves into the pandemic, and what we can expect in the near future.

[Read the summary](#)

[Watch the video](#)



CITF-Funded Research Results

Wastewater surveillance can be very effective in anticipating outbreaks of COVID-19 in shelters

A CITF-funded study published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* shows that wastewater surveillance was an effective technique for detecting an outbreak of COVID-19 at a Toronto homeless shelter before cases were

otherwise identified.

[Read more](#)

The promise held by quantitative immunoassays to identify antibody-rich donor plasma

A new study from the CITF-funded Canadian Blood Services team, published in *Microbiology Spectrum*, characterizes the ability of a new immunoassay to specify the concentration of neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 found in blood plasma.

[Read more](#)

COVID-19 vaccine coverage in the pregnant population remains low in Ontario

Among individuals who were pregnant in May 2022, nearly 80% had received two or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine before or during pregnancy, which is low compared to the general female population of reproductive age in Ontario (approximately 91%). The data comes from the non-peer reviewed fifth CITF-funded report on COVID-19 vaccination coverage in pregnant people from the Better Outcomes Registry and Network (BORN) Ontario study.

[Read more](#)



CITF Announcements



Now out! September issue of the *CITF Monthly Review*

The latest issue of the *CITF Monthly Review* features a CITF and international research review on **COVID-19 in long term care residents and older Canadians, updated seroprevalence data** for Canada, summaries of some **important CITF-funded results** over the past month, and more.

[Read more](#)

NWT Chief Public Health Officer to expand ways to detect COVID-19 in population

The Northwest Territories will begin testing blood samples from NWT residents going back to April 1, 2022 to look for antibodies both due to infection and to vaccination. The project, funded by the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, is believed to be the first that will exclusively target a northern territory. The samples will be tested at Canadian Blood Services' research laboratory and data will be added to the CITF's [Seroprevalence in Canada](#) webpage.

[Read more](#)



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