



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Research Roundup

Your weekly review on COVID-related research



International Research Review

Vaccines or boosters tailored to the variant first identified in South Africa may be needed

The variant first identified in South Africa (B.1.351), is partially resistant to antibodies against previously circulating variants and concern was raised about the effectiveness of current vaccines against it. On the other hand, many individuals that recovered from COVID-19 caused by this variant have antibodies that are effective against previously circulating variants. We have covered three interesting studies on this topic recently published in different journals of the *Nature* group.

[Read Summary](#)

Nationwide study in Israel demonstrates high vaccine effectiveness

Israel's Ministry of Health used routine vaccine and COVID-19 surveillance to calculate the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, seven days after the second injection. Results, in this *The Lancet* preprint, show that not only were high proportions of the population vaccinated (82.8% of people over

65 received two doses), but that vaccines were highly effective in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections, translating to a steep decline in cases.

[Read Summary](#)

If you're feeling drained, you're not alone

"The pace that led to the incredible generation of knowledge on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 has put enormous demands on the people who are expected to generate that knowledge." A sobering new essay in *Science* magazine puts the spotlight on the research scientists, students, and staff who are persistently overworked and exhausted during the pandemic.

[Read Summary](#)



Publications from our Experts

NACI provides rationale for extending interval between COVID-19 vaccine doses

Drs. Caroline Quach and Shelly Deeks, Chair and Vice-Chair of NACI, respectively, provided further explanation behind extending the interval between doses of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines to up to four months. Dr. Quach is a CITF Leadership Group member and both Drs. Quach and Deeks are also core members of the Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG).

[Read More](#)



From Preprint to Published

A new testing strategy for the prompt detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern

CITF-funded researcher Dr. Marc Romney and his team at the University of British Columbia have had their preprint published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. In this paper, which we previously included as a preprint, the team proposed a new testing strategy that can rapidly detect circulating variants, is quicker and cheaper than the current standard, does not require samples carrying high concentrations of virus, and can be scaled-up to test all SARS-CoV-2 positive samples.

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Share your Research

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