



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH



CITF Events



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

Seminar Series | Research Results & Implications

COVID-19's youngest victims



March 27, 2023 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST

Register for our final seminar on Monday

At the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 was generally very mild in young children, creating a sense that most were not at risk.

Once Omicron struck, the millions of people infected led to increased numbers of serious cases, including in children. This included some rare yet serious and lingering complications. Furthermore, the rigorous process

before vaccines were approved for children caused delays in pediatric vaccination. Coupled with poorer vaccine uptake in young children, this has led to gaps in immune protection against COVID-19.

The CITF has funded several studies examining the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on pediatric populations, as well as vaccine efficacy and the durability of immune responses in children. Join our CITF-funded experts for an informative discussion about the current state of research on COVID-19 and pediatrics in Canada.

Panelists:

- **Stephen Freedman, MDCM, MSc**, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Professor in Child Health and Wellness & Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary; Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician, Alberta Children's Hospital.
- **Jim Kellner, MD**, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist; Professor, Pediatrics, University of Calgary; Leader, CITF Pediatric Network.
- **Caroline Quach-Thanh, OQ, MD, FRCPC, MSc**, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Immunology and Department of Pediatrics, Université de Montréal; Pediatric Infectious Diseases & Medical Microbiologist, CHU Sainte-Justine; Medical Lead, Infection Prevention & Control, CHU Sainte-Justine.
- **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.

Moderator:

Timothy Evans, MD, PhD, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

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Blood donors aged 17-24 years old and racialized groups continue to have higher seroprevalence

In its latest CITF-funded seroprevalence report, Canadian Blood Services suggest that 77.3% of blood donors had infection-acquired antibodies by mid-February. This estimate was similar to the 76.7% estimate recorded in January 2023. The youngest donors, aged 17 to 24, continued to have higher seropositivity due to infection compared to other age groups. Self-declared racialized donors continued to have higher seroprevalence due to infection than white donors.

[Read more](#)

In people aged 50 years or older, booster doses sustain the protection against Omicron-related severe outcomes for at least three months

This CITF-funded study, published in *Nature Communications*, found that a third and fourth dose of mRNA vaccine sustained the protection conferred against severe Omicron-related outcomes for at least three months in people aged 50 years or older. A fourth dose yielded even greater and longer-lasting protection than a third dose.

[Read more](#)

In children, longer dosing intervals increase the effectiveness of vaccines but protection wanes fast

This CITF-funded study, published in *Pediatrics*, highlighted that two doses of the monovalent Pfizer-BioNtech mRNA vaccine yielded moderate protection against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, but higher protection against severe COVID-19 outcomes among children between the ages of 5 and 11. Initially, vaccine effectiveness was higher when the interval between the two doses was longer, but protection waned quickly following each dose.

[Read more](#)

Risk of myocarditis or pericarditis remains low in adolescents after Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination

A CITF-funded study, published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, reported that among adolescents the risk of myocarditis or pericarditis after receiving the monovalent Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine varies according to age and sex. There is some evidence to suggest an increased risk with shorter intervals between doses 1 and 2. However, the risk of these events remains very rare (<0.01% in ages 12-15 years and <0.1% in ages 16-17), with no deaths reported, and should be considered in relation to the benefits of vaccination.

[Read more](#)

Kids' time spent on screens and outdoor activity affected by lockdown stages of the COVID-19 pandemic

A CITF-funded study, published in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, found that children under 5 years of age had greater increases in screen use, but lower increases in physical activity and outdoor play time compared to children between the ages of 5 and 12 during COVID-19 lockdowns.

[Read more](#)



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