CENTRE DE RECHERCHE | CHUS

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke
Québec

# Canadian COVID-19 Cohort Study (CCS): Study of the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Canadian healthcare workers

## Information Sheet and Consent Form

### Study information

Study investigator: Dr Louis Valiquette
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Funder: COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Please read the following explanation of what is being asked of you and about the study's risks and benefits before you decide if you would like to take part. Participation is voluntary.

### What is the purpose of the study?

To determine

- how many people develop COVID-19 infection and the risk factors for infection,
- to describe the changes in the carriage of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 over time,
- the incidence of re-infection,
- the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines
- the psychological impact of working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Who is being asked to participate?

People working in an acute care, rehabilitation, or complex care hospital associated with Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke (CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS) who:

- are 18 to 75 years old
- work anywhere in the institution for at least 20 hours per week
    - OR is a physician, nurse, or midwife who cares for patients 8 hours or more per week
- available for at least the next 3 months (not retiring or going on leave), and
- have convenient access to a computer or a cell phone with internet access (to complete surveys and receive information about the study)
- You can participate even if you have been vaccinated against or you have had the COVID19.

### What do I need to do if I decide to participate?

1) An online survey at enrolment to assess your current risk factors (about 15 minutes)
2) Short online surveys every week about whether you have had any symptoms (about 2 minutes)
    - One week in five, the survey will be longer to ask about your exposure to other ill people (about 5 minutes)
3) Every time you are tested for COVID-19, complete online illness reports to inform the study of your test results, symptoms, and contact with ill people (about 5 minutes) and one every day you continue to have symptoms (about 2 minutes per day); and
4) Self-collect blood samples
    i. when you join, in 6 months, and at the end of the study
    ii. every 30 days after you test positive (by NP swab) for COVID-19 (for up to one year)
    iii. within 3 days before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and again 30 days after your final dose

    Self- collection is similar to how people with diabetes check their blood sugar: a finger prick and a collection card on which you place 5 blood drops. The results of the antibody tests will be shared with you within 6 months of the collection.

### How long will the study last?

The study will last until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic or 12 months, whichever is shorter

## Are there any benefits or risks to participating in the study?

- You may have some acute pain and minor bruising at the site of blood collection; it is occasionally necessary to prick a second finger
- There is no cost to taking part in the study. All supplies are provided by the study. The study pays to have supplies shipped to your home and returned to the lab

- There is no direct benefit to being in the study beyond having access to test results. However, information learned from this study may help us reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19

## Compensation associated with participating in the study

- When you complete your baseline questionnaire and the first five weekly reports, you will receive an email asking you to choose the retailer for a $20 electronic gift card
- A draw will be made every 5 weeks throughout the study for a $10 electronic gift card. All weekly reports completed within the previous 5 weeks period will be eligible for each draw. Your chance of winning is 1 in 500.
- If you withdraw, you are no longer eligible for the draw.
- We will email the winners, individually. We will indicate that a person at XX site won the draw in the weekly update.

## Voluntary participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study, or to be in the study now and then change your mind later. You may leave the study at any time without affecting your employment status. You may refuse to answer any question you do not want to answer, or not answer an interview question by saying "pass". We will give you new information that is learned during the study that might affect your decision to stay in the study.

By signing this form you do not give up any of your legal rights against the investigators, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, or involved institutions.

## Confidentiality

Your data will be kept confidential. You will not be named in any reports. Your name, address, and phone number can only be accessed by the study staff and are needed to ship supplies to you. The information collected for the study will be kept on secure servers using encryption software for up to 120 days after the end of the study. It will then be transferred to the Sinai Health System server and kept there for 10 years before being destroyed. The following people may look at your personal health information to check that the information collected is correct:

- Representatives of the Sinai Health System
- Representatives of the Research Ethics Board of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS
- Representatives of Health Canada.

No personal information will be shared outside the study except as required by law.

The COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (sponsor of the study) is funded by the Government of Canada to research COVID-19. Some of the data collected (COVID-19 infection status, underlying health conditions, social distancing practices, age, sex, ethnicity, education, living conditions, and travel experiences will be shared with researchers in Canada and internationally to better understand immunity, infection rates, and health outcomes relating to COVID-19. These data will be stored in a database at McGill University indefinitely. All identifying will be stripped from the data and replaced with a study code prior to sharing your data with them. General information about the research performed with these data will be available on the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force website, see https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca

If the results of this study are published, your identity will be kept confidential. Information gathered during this study may be shared in publications and presentations with researchers in Canada and abroad, but will not contain any information that could identify you.

Your denominated data from this study may be used for other research purposes. If your study data is shared with other researchers, information that links your study data directly to you will not be shared.

## Optional use of data for futures studies

At the end of the study, your de-identified data will be kept at McGill's University, Montreal, Quebec. They will be used by the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force's researchers and to share updates with the Public Health Agency of Canada. To use and have access to the data, the researchers will need a scientific and ethic review. Data will be used for projects related to COVID-19 or for related health outcomes. Data will be kept indefinitely.

## Who can I talk to if I have questions?


Principal Investigator: Dr Louis Valiquette
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**Who can I contact for questions or concerns about my rights?**

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS's Office of Complaints and Quality of Services by e-mail at plaintes.ciussse-chus@ssss.gouv.qc.ca or by phone at 1-866-917-7903. Please reference the study number MP-31-2021-4104 when contacting the Complaint Line so the staff can better assist you.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Before you consent, it is important that we make sure that you are eligible to participate. Please check the items that apply to you:**

☐ I am 18-75 years old

☐ I work at the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke (CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS)

☐ I work, on average, 20 hours per week for the hospital – OR – I am a physician, nurse, or midwife with privileges who works, on average, 8 hours per week caring for patients

☐ I plan to be working for at least the next 3 months

☐ I do not meet one or more of these eligibility requirements

## CONSENT

☐ I have read this information sheet and I understand the study procedures

☐ I agree that my de-identified data will be kept for indefinitely by the COVID19 Immunity Task Force at McGill's University, Montreal, Quebec.

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I agree to be a part of the study