

## **CCS: Study of the epidemiology of COVID-19 in healthcare workers and their households**

### **Research participation opportunity for Healthcare Workers in the GTA**

Dr. Allison McGeer, an infectious disease researcher, is spearheading a study looking into the risk factors and protective practices for COVID-19 among hospital staff. The COVID-19 Cohort Study (CCS) follows staff throughout the pandemic to find out who does and does not get ill with the virus. It is also studying how many have already been exposed to the COVID-19 virus by testing their blood for antibodies against the virus and how well the vaccine works.

Dr. McGeer says that “one of the differences between this study and others that are being conducted is that we are also looking at households. We are trying to learn about the risk of COVID-19 spreading amongst the people we live with”.

Dr. Dawn Bowdish, an immunologist from McMaster University and a co-researcher on this study, adds that “we hope that hospital staff will ask their family members to take part in the study so we can learn whether people who get COVID-19 have different bacteria or other immune reactions in their noses that makes them more or less likely to get the virus.”

Dr. Brenda Coleman, a clinical scientist at Sinai Health, adds that “this study is critical to understanding the role of our workplaces, our households, and our personal practices on the risk of contracting COVID-19 and the results should help us understand the potential benefits of vaccines”.

The researchers are looking for healthcare workers who work in private clinics or select hospitals in the greater Toronto area to take part in the study. They would like to enrol others in the next few weeks. The researchers need both staff who have direct patient contact and those who have no direct interaction with patients. “That way we can see whether patients are a common source of infection,” says Dr. Coleman.

### **Who can join the CCS?**

We are inviting healthcare workers (physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives, physicians’ assistants, nurses, or receptionists) working in private medical practices/medical clinics and select Toronto area hospitals who:

- Are 18-75 years of age Work in the greater Toronto area
- Provide office-based care for patients for >20 hours per week (*direct patient contact is not required*)
- Have convenient access to computer or phone with internet access
- Plan to be available for *at least* the next 3 months

For further information about the study, please visit <http://www.tibdn.ca/covid-19/ccs> to see if your hospital is a part of the study, or <http://www.tibdn.ca/covid-19/phys> if you work in a private clinic.