



HÉMA-QUÉBEC

HÉMA-QUÉBEC OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR PLASMA SAMPLES VIA A PLASMA DONOR BIOBANK

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Héma-Québec has been playing a supportive role to the Quebec and Canadian healthcare networks by conducting SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence studies in blood donors. These studies were done in partnership with the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF). In March 2021, when the Quebec government expedited a COVID-19 vaccination program aiming to immunize the majority of Quebecers as soon as possible, Héma-Québec, with the CITF's funding, quickly recruited a cohort of its frequent plasma donors and accumulated relevant biological samples. These samples are not only to support Héma-Québec researchers, but the Canadian research community.

Blood donors give plasma that is intended for fractionation, through a process called apheresis. The biobank consists of 3-mL plasma samples collected at each donation from these plasma donors. Data on vaccination and infection events are also collected. All plasma donors who qualify are included in the biobank if they give their consent.

Many people give plasma on a regular basis providing an opportunity to collect repeat samples and to study the response to vaccination or infection over time. The samples collected allow us to gather information before and after vaccination, and in some cases before and after COVID-19 infection, which contribute to a better understanding of the impact of vaccination on the evolution of the pandemic.

Sample collection is continuing as planned. At last count, we had more than 60,000 samples obtained from more than 12,000 individual donors. The ten (10) Héma-Québec donation centres that collect biobank-dedicated samples from plasma donors are located in Saguenay, Lebourgneuf, Sainte-Foy, Trois-Rivières, Sherbrooke, Laval, Montreal, Kirkland, Brossard and Gatineau. We anticipate that over the course of the project, which will continue well into 2022, we may accumulate more than 100,000 plasma samples that will be available for several ongoing and future research projects.

If you would like more information about using samples and data from Héma-Québec's plasma biobank, [click here](#).