

Common Messaging from SAC on the Immunity Passport

- Several governments are currently exploring the possible use of immunity passports to release people who have recovered from COVID-19 from physical distancing measures.
- Once granted an immunity passport, individuals would be allowed to travel or to return to work assuming that they are protected against re-infection.
- WHO has warned that there is not enough evidence about the effectiveness of antibody-mediated immunity to guarantee the accuracy of an immunity passport and that the use of such passports may increase the risks of continued transmission.
- From a PHAC perspective, we are concerned by key gaps in evidence:
 - There is no evidence to support that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies, are protected from a second infection.
 - Determining whether a specific antibody level correlates with immunity and for how long will also require more research.
 - Lab tests that detect antibodies to COVID-19, including rapid immunodiagnostic tests, need further validation to determine their accuracy and reliability.
- We are also concerned by the ethical and legal challenges associated with immunity passports that can disproportionately impact vulnerable/ low socioeconomic status groups:
 - A “black market” for immunity cards might develop
 - The creation of a registry of people with immunity passports can lead to privacy/data security breaches, with social/economic consequence