



Immunity Passports

- Canada's Chief Medical Officers of Health do not support immunity passport programs. We do not yet know enough about the immune response to infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Research is underway to find out whether people who have recovered from COVID-19 have protective immunity, and how long that immunity may last.
- Health Canada authorized (on May 12, 2020) the first COVID-19 serological test for use in Canada, followed by a second test on May 14. The tests are not authorized for use in the diagnosis of COVID-19. For an up-to-date list of authorized tests, check [Health Canada's website](#).
- Serological tests are blood tests that detect the presence of antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19. They indicate whether a person has been previously infected with the virus.
- As scientists are working to understand COVID-19 immunity, we are focusing on the public health measures that we know are effective.
- We are continuing to advise Canadians to stay home when ill, practice good hand hygiene, and if you have to leave your home, practise physical distancing. These are tried and true public health measures that we know work.

If asked about concerns about Immunity Passports:

- The World Health Organization recently warned that there is currently 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.
- A false-positive result might lead an individual to change their behaviour, potentially becoming infected or unknowingly infecting others.
- Ethical and legal considerations of sharing information on individual serological test results need to be addressed to ensure privacy of personal health data, to prevent stigmatizing lower-income Canadians and/or those with unstable employment. Immunity passport programs may increase the risk of discrimination against employees who may not have COVID-19 antibodies. Pressures to return to work could drive people to willfully expose themselves or their families to infection if immunity passports were a tool used to confirm a return to work.
- The creation of a registry of people with immunity passports may lead to privacy/data security considerations that would need to be addressed.
- Serological surveys can also help guide important public health decisions once a vaccine becomes available.



Is the government considering the possibility of serological or immunity passports or certificates to allow people with immunity to move freely again?

- There is an active international effort to assess whether those who have recovered from illness are safe to resume daily activities.
- More research is needed before making decisions in Canada.
- Other respiratory viruses generally do not provide an individual with 100% immunity after recovery.
- Right now, we just do not know whether individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 will have immunity, how long that immunity may last, or whether it's possible for individuals to experience less severe or potentially more serious illness if they get COVID-19 a second time.