

COVID-19

Plasma donors follow up – impact of vaccination on the immune response against SARS-CoV-2 causing COVID-19

If you've previously read this leaflet, please disregard it

Dear Donor,

You are invited to participate in this study, but before agreeing to participate, please take the time to read this document and do not hesitate to ask a Héma-Québec staff member any questions you may have. You are free to accept or refuse to participate, and you can inform the nursing staff of your choice during the medical questionnaire review or when you complete the self-service questionnaire. Your decision will have no impact on your eligibility to donate plasma and **your participation will not prevent your plasma from being used for fractionation.**

Héma-Québec plans to conduct research related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is responsible for COVID-19. More specifically, **we want to measure the impact of vaccination or infection on the immune response.** It is important to understand that the purpose of this study is not to diagnose cases of COVID-19, but to study the immune response following vaccination and/or infection. To this end, **we will collect a 3 ml sample from your plasma bag today and during your subsequent donations.** Other scientific teams may also propose new studies and thus have access to your samples. Such studies, all related to COVID-19, will first be reviewed and approved by Héma-Québec and its research ethics committee. All information collected as part of this study will be treated confidentially by Héma-Québec and its research partners will never have access to your personal data. You will only be identified by a code number.

If you agree to participate in the study: During the selection interview, the nurse staff may ask you brief questions or you may be asked questions via another method (online questionnaire, etc.). For example, we will want to know if you have received the COVID-19 vaccine, if you have had the infection, and if you have had a diagnostic test for COVID-19. **By agreeing to participate in this study, you also authorize Héma-Québec to consult information about you in the provincial registries maintained by the ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS),** provided that the required authorizations from the relevant government authorities are obtained (such as the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec). **The following data could be obtained: result and date of positive screening for COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 vaccination received** (type of vaccine, date(s) and number of doses administered). These requests for information will be made in accordance with the rules of confidentiality, ethics and rights of access to information. Héma-Québec may contact you to offer you the possibility of participating in other studies or to ask you questions related to COVID-19. For example, we may ask you if you have had symptoms of COVID-19 and what may have caused your infection.

If you decline to participate in the study: For operational reasons, a sample will still be taken from each of your donations. However, please be assured that **your samples will not be banked; they will be destroyed.**

If you have any additional questions or problems related to the study, you can call the nurse in charge of collecting specimens at Héma-Québec: 514-832-5000, extension 3256 or 1-888-666-4362, extension 3256. Please note that you may withdraw from this study at any time by contacting the nurse in charge of collection. If you withdraw, all samples collected for this study that have not yet been used will be destroyed.

Héma-Québec thanks you for your participation.

