



Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council COVID-19 Vaccine Study into Immune Response, Effectiveness, Safety

Our goal is to determine the extent to which our community members are protected by the COVID-19 vaccine, how this protection changes over time, and the extent of negative side effects of the vaccine. This will support current and future planning of health services and programs. This emerged from NCN communities expressing a need to document and learn from the pandemic.

Project objectives:

- To learn how our community members responded to COVID-19 vaccines
- To learn how the COVID-19 antibody level changes over time
- To learn whether there have been side effects from COVID-19 vaccines
- To understand how COVID-19 vaccine immunity and side effects differ from one group of community members to another according to Nation, region, age, sex, co-morbidity, and social/structural determinants of wellness
- To situate understandings of COVID-19 immunity within the historical context of pandemic resilience in Nuuchahnulth community, as well as the everyday lived reality of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic in Nuuchahnulth communities.

Governance of data and blood samples: Nation-based and a NCN Biospecimen Guardian

Being mindful of our communities' history of non-consensual and harmful medical research, the project has been designed with informed consent, data sovereignty, and respectful treatment of stories and biological samples as priorities. Nations can own the information that is generated by this project. A biospecimen guardian who is a NCN member will be trained at the lab where the blood samples will be analyzed and oversee the collection, transport, processing, and safe return to community of blood samples in a culturally appropriate way.

How do I get more information?

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Community-based researcher

How will the project do this?

- Talking circles and Elder-led storytelling;
- Photovoice for youth;
- A survey;
- Dry-blood spot samples (e.g. a finger prick);
- Venous blood samples

Who can participate?

5 yrs and older (with different kinds of individual/guardian consent age dependent) that are:

- NCN people living in-community & away from home;
- People living in-community that are non-NCN

People can participate in one or all activities.

When?

Each Nation will decide on their timeline. Currently the project is funded until March 2023, with a request for an extension until September 2023 pending.

Potential Benefits:

- Improved health services;
- Increased knowledge of the COVID-19 vaccine and how it has worked in NCN peoples' bodies and/or potential side effects;
- Learning and knowledge to better plan and prepare for future pandemics or health emergencies;
- Opportunities for Nations to lead NCN-led and owned research and build their capacity for data sovereignty and governance

Who is responsible for the project?

As a community-based project, Nations guide the project. Lynnette Lucas, NTC's Health Director, is the lead (principal investigator). All 14 Nations elected to participate via NTC's Board of Directors. An NTC research team has been hired to work on this project.

Partners include Simon Fraser University and the National Microbiology Lab with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada.