



## The Volunteers Who Make it Possible

Vaccine research starts in the lab, but many years later when the vaccine has to be tested in people, volunteers step up and make it happen. Whether they answer a survey, review educational documents, receive a vaccine, provide a nasal swab or blood sample, allow access to their medical history, or talk to a study nurse while in hospital, it's all necessary to test and continually monitor the safety, effectiveness and public acceptance of vaccines.

A current study is measuring mother's antibodies that are transferred to her newborn. Another study asked groups of participants to self administer a vaccine using a new injection device. Many studies have assessed vaccine-induced immunity years after immunization, while others have tested the effectiveness of differing vaccine doses. Equally important is the measurement of public confidence in vaccines, revealed via surveys, focus groups and interviews.

### People volunteer to participate in research for many reasons.

- **Gillian Hollebhone**, in a pertussis study with her infant son, volunteered "for future generations."
  - **Andrew Dacanay**, a triathlete with a background in immunology, answered the call to volunteer because "it's something you do when there's an opportunity."
  - **Sandra Salter**, who participates in a pregnancy study, said she volunteered because the research is "good for me, my future baby and other future babies."
  - **Marisa Adams** heard about CCfV research during a prenatal class, and now she and her young son are enrolled in a study "to find out how the research works and how it might help others."
  - As a microbiologist, **Jason LeBlanc** understands the value of vaccine research.
- "If you want good vaccines, you need research to prove they are safe and make sure they work. This takes volunteers and I like being part of the process."
- **Makis Miri**, Dalhousie University student, said she enrolled in a HPV vaccine study "because I wanted to help further research and give future generations better opportunities."
  - While working at the IWK **Melissa Weatherbie** saw an opportunity to participate in a study because "research brings important new knowledge."
  - **Nicholas Bartlett** loves volunteering and compliments CCfV staff for making his participation in a clinical trial a good experience that he would recommend to others.



CCfV investigators and staff wish to extend their sincere appreciation to all study participants who have made such valuable research possible, and paved the way for life saving vaccines.