

THSTI's collaborated with TIFR & others research organizations to study sero-prevalence of SARS-CoV2 in Mumbai

The Department of Biotechnology's Faridabad based institute, the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) has tied up with institutes in Mumbai for serosurveillance to gain an understanding of (i) number of people infected with SARS-CoV-2, (ii) the virus SARS-CoV2, and (iii) how it is spreading through the population.

Community serological testing for COVID-19 infection in Mumbai

- Disease progression
- Clinical interventions
- Population-level risk
- Informed Public Health Policy decisions
- Influence measures to kick start the economic activities

10K samples in 3-wards
Slum/non-slum population
Assess risk-factors
Multiple rounds for epidemic trajectory

Partners: THSTI, Kasturba Hospital, ATECF, IDFC

As we know that it just took a few months for a tiny virus to take over a city of about two crore population and renamed it from the financial capital of India to the COVID-19 capital of India. On July 1, 2020, the number of cases touched 1.8 Lakhs. Thus, in this week THSTI, entered into an agreement with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai, Kasturba Hospital, A.T.E Chandra Foundation, IDFC Institute, and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The collaborative project aims to estimate the prevalence of current and past COVID-19 infections in various representative communities in Mumbai at different time intervals. Conclusively, this study will aid our understanding of how the virus has spread over time within Mumbai.

For surveillance, serology testing will be done for better understanding of how many infections with SARS-CoV-2 have occurred at different points in time within Mumbai.

Serology tests look for antibodies in blood. If antibodies are found, that means there has been a previous infection. Antibodies are proteins that can fight off infections.

Investigations using serology testing are called seroprevalence surveys. These surveys also help us in understanding the underlying risk factors of the disease including a person's age, location, or co-morbidities. Since DBT and THSTI are also involved in vaccine development, the study's prospects to determine how long antibodies last in people's bodies following infection will also be useful.

Link: https://www.tifr.res.in/TSN/news_detail.php?id=MEtGM2pvMXA4L0REQUg4RDFLU2ttZz09

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