
PROTECTING ME, PROTECTING YOU, PROTECTING BOTH, PROTECTING NEITHER? CANADIAN OPINION ON VACCINATION

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JANUARY 15 2021

INTRODUCTION: KNOWLEDGE OF VACCINATION OUTCOMES

- The current challenge in meeting the continued threat of COVID-19 is to vaccinate a critical mass of the population to create a sufficient level of immunity so as to reduce the number of cases and presumably as vaccination rates rise case numbers will decline. It's a relationship that not everyone fully comprehends and as Canada and other countries address issues of vaccine hesitation it is critical for the population to understand why maximum levels of vaccination are critical. One issue which is the object of misunderstanding amongst those reticent to get vaccinated is the belief that if enough people in your immediate 'circle' of family and friends are vaccinated than you won't need to do so. So COVID-19 vaccination teaches your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus and protects you from getting sick with COVID-19 but may not protect unvaccinated others interacting with you from getting the virus. Do Canadians know this? A Leger-ACS survey (January 2-3, 2021) reveals that a large plurality are aware, but many aren't.
- The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that “even if a vaccine has trained your immune cells to kick the butt of any SARS-CoV-2 viruses they spot, they might not be able to neutralize the ones resting in your nose, on the other side of your mucous barriers. Those COVID-19 viruses wouldn't hurt you, but they still might be able to replicate and shed — coughed back out of your nose and mouth and into the community, where they could encounter your unvaccinated friends and loved ones.”
- These findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies between January 2 and January 3, 2021 with 1523 Canadians and while no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample, for comparative purposes the national sample would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

A PLURALITY OF CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 MEANS I WILL BE WELL-PROTECTED AGAINST THE SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS; MEN MORE SO THAN WOMEN; ONE IN SIX CANADIANS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE VACCINE WILL PROVIDE PROTECTION AGAINST THE VIRUS

Which of the following statements do you think best reflects the outcome from vaccination?			
	Total	Man	Woman
Being vaccinated against COVID-19 means I will no longer be able to give the virus to others	6%	6%	6%
Being vaccinated against COVID-19 means I will be well-protected against the symptoms of the virus	40%	44%	37%
Both of the above	38%	36%	40%
Neither of the above	16%	14%	17%

ATLANTIC AND PRAIRIE RESIDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THE VACCINE PROTECTS EVERYONE

	Which of the following statements do you think best reflects the outcome from vaccination?					
	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Being vaccinated against the COVID-19 means I will no longer be able to give the virus to others	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	9%
Being vaccinated against COVID-19 means I will be well-protected against the symptoms of the virus	28%	44%	39%	34%	42%	46%
Both of the above	54%	37%	36%	51%	40%	32%
Neither of the above	13%	15%	19%	11%	13%	14%

A MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY WILL NOT GET VACCINATED DO NOT BELIEVE THE VACCINE WILL PROTECT AGAINST THE VIRUS

Which of the following statements do you think best reflects the outcome from vaccination?	When a vaccine for COVID-19 that had been approved by Health Canada becomes available to the population and it is free, do you intend to get vaccinated?		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Being vaccinated against the COVID-19 means I will no longer be able to give the virus to others	6.2%	3.8%	4.6%
Being vaccinated against COVID-19 means I will be well-protected against the symptoms of the virus	44.7%	20.7%	38.4%
Both of the above	43.5%	23.5%	28.3%
Neither of the above	5.6%	52.1%	28.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT BEING VACCINATED WILL PROTECT THEM ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CONFIDENT AROUND THE PROSPECTS OF LIMITING THE SPREAD OF THE CONTAGION

How confident are you that we will be able to limit the spread of COVID-19 over the next few weeks	Which of the following statements do you think best reflects the outcome from vaccination?			
	Being vaccinated against the COVID-19 means I will no longer be able to give the virus to others	Being vaccinated against COVID-19 means I will be well-protected against the symptoms of the virus	Both of the above	Neither of the above
Very confident	24.4%	8.9%	8.6%	6.0%
Somewhat confident	31.4%	29.3%	31.6%	19.7%
Not so confident	33.7%	43.8%	42.0%	47.9%
Not confident at all	10.5%	18.1%	17.8%	26.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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Created on January 15, 2021



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