

ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRST REPORTED CASE OF COVID-19 NEARLY HALF OF CANADIANS REPORT PERSONALLY KNOWING SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS

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INTRODUCTION

The first Canadian case of the novel coronavirus was reported by Health Canada on Jan. 25, 2020, in a Toronto man who had recently travelled to Wuhan, China. The man didn't have any symptoms when he arrived, but the next day, he became so sick that he required a trip to the hospital. As of the weekend of January 22nd, 2021 there were 745 000 confirmed cases.

By May 2020 some one in four Canadians reported personally knowing someone that was infected/diagnosed with COVID-19. One year later, (January 15-17 survey) some one in two Canadians personally know someone that has been infected with COVID-19 with Quebecers leading in this regard. And in the case of Quebec it is increasingly a family member that we know personally with COVID-19. But knowing someone with COVID-19 has not made us more fearful than those who say that they don't know someone that has been infected with the virus

TWICE AS MANY CANADIANS NOW KNOW SOMEONE PERSONALLY THAT HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19 COMPARED WITH LAST MAY; BIGGEST INCREASES IN ALBERTA AND PRAIRIES WHILE ATLANTIC REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED

Do you personally know someone who has been infected with COVID-19?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
May 15-17, 2020	25%	22%	34%	27%	12%	17%	22%
January 15-17, 2021	50%	23%	59%	51%	48%	58%	42%

ONE IN TWO CANADIANS PERSONALLY KNOW SOMEONE THAT HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19 WITH QUEBECERS AND ALBERTANS MOST LIKELY IN THIS REGARD

Do you personally know someone who has been infected with COVID-19?										
January 15-17, 2021	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	French	English	Others
Yes	50%	23%	59%	51%	48%	58%	42%	56%	47%	53%
No	49%	76%	40%	48%	50%	39%	55%	43%	52%	42%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	5%

PERSONS UNDER 35 MOST LIKELY TO PERSONALLY KNOW SOMEONE THAT HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19

Do you personally know someone who has been infected with COVID-19?					
January 15-17, 2021	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	51%	49%	61%	53%	40%
No	48%	49%	37%	46%	59%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%

QUEBECERS BY FAR MOST LIKELY TO SAY THEY KNOW A FAMILY MEMBER THAT HAD COVID-19 COMPARED WITH OTHER CANADIANS MORE LIKELY TO SAY THAT IT IS A FRIEND THAT HAS BEEN INFECTED

Is/are this/these person(s)...										
January 15-17, 2021	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
A family member	39%	50%	34%	40%	40%	48%	38%	36%	30%	30%
A friend	47%	35%	50%	53%	40%	38%	52%	50%	55%	44%
A coworker	19%	20%	17%	25%	5%	20%	16%	16%	21%	29%
Other	17%	14%	16%	23%	20%	14%	19%	15%	21%	12%

MORE OF US ARE LIKELY TO SAY THAT WE NOW KNOW A FAMILY MEMBER THAT HAD BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19 WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 2020

Is/are this/these person(s)...		
	January 15-17, 2021	May 15-17, 2020
A family member	39%	30%
A friend	47%	47%
A coworker	19%	14%
Other	17%	18%

KNOWING SOMEONE PERSONALLY WITH COVID-19 HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO MORE FEAR OF GETTING THE VIRUS THAN IS THE CASE FOR PEOPLE SAYING THAT THEY DON'T PERSONALLY KNOW SOMEONE THAT GOT IT

Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	Do you personally know someone who has been infected with COVID-19?	
	Yes	No
Total Afraid	57.4%	61.7%
Very afraid	16.7%	15.5%
Somewhat afraid	40.7%	46.2%
Not very afraid	28.2%	28.3%
Not afraid at all	10.0%	8.9%
I already have or have been exposed to the virus	3.3%	.4%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	1.1%	.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

IN QUEBEC NON-FRANCOPHONES AND YOUNGER PERSONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO KNOW SOMEONE PERSONALLY THAT HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19

I personally know someone who has been infected with COVID-19?	Quebec
Francophone	58%
Non-Francophone	63%
18-34	69%
35 and over	55%

METHODOLOGY

- These findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies between January 15 and January 17, 2021 with 1516 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.

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