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# WILL VACCINES PROTECT US FROM VARIANTS? CANADIANS ARE DIVIDED IN THREE ON THIS BURNING QUESTION

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# INTRODUCTION: VACCINE ESCAPING VARIANTS....WHAT DO CANADIANS THINK?

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “ New forms, or variants, of the virus that causes COVID-19 have emerged. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States should work against these variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants. CDC recommends getting vaccinated as soon as vaccine is available to you.” What they acknowledge not knowing is whether “...the new COVID-19 variants will affect how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. CDC has systems in place to monitor how common these variants are and to look for the emergence of new variants. CDC will continue to monitor variants to see if they have any impact on how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/work.html#:~:text=New%20forms%2C%20or%20variants%2C%20of,19%2C%20including%20against%20new%20v%20variants.>

When asked whether they think that the vaccines will protect us from the variants, a Leger-Association for Canadian Studies survey reveals that opinion is divided three ways with some one-third persuaded it will, one third that it won't and just over a third saying they don't know. Uncertainty about the effect of the variants is becoming an increasingly important driver of opinion as to how Canadians feel that the COVID-19 crisis will evolve with those who are most pessimistic about where it is headed being most inclined to think the vaccines won't protect us from the variants. The Leger-ACS survey was conducted via web panel with 1504 Canadians over the period April 9-11, 2021 and has a probabilistic margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

# CANADIANS ARE DIVIDED OVER WHETHER THE VACCINES WILL PROTECT US FROM THE VARIANT BUT MANY ADMIT THEY DON'T KNOW

Do you believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes, I believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	31%	30%	34%	31%	25%	35%	29%
No, I do not believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	32%	28%	32%	34%	28%	32%	29%
I don't know	36%	41%	34%	34%	45%	33%	40%
I prefer not to answer	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	2%

# MEN MORE LIKELY THAN WOMEN TO BELIEVE THAT THE VACCINE WILL PROTECT US FROM THE VARIANTS; YOUNGEST CANADIANS MOST OPTIMISTIC ABOUT VACCINE PROTECTION

Do you believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19?									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Yes, I believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	31%	37%	26%	43%	30%	29%	28%	32%	31%
No, I do not believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	32%	27%	36%	31%	36%	35%	35%	29%	26%
I don't know	36%	35%	37%	25%	30%	36%	37%	39%	43%
I prefer not to answer	1%	2%	0%	0%	4%	1%	0%	1%	1%

# THOSE CANADIANS THAT HAVE RECEIVED A COVID-19 VACCINE ARE MORE LIKELY THAN THOSE WHO HAVEN'T TO BELIEVE THE VACCINES WILL PROTECT US FROM THE VARIANTS

Do you believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19?			
	Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine shot?		
	Total	I have received a COVID-19 vaccine shot	I have not received a COVID-19 vaccine shot
Yes, I believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	31%	<b>38%</b>	<b>29%</b>
No, I do not believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	32%	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>
I don't know	36%	34%	37%
I prefer not to answer	1%	2%	1%

# THOSE CANADIANS THAT THINK THAT THE WORST OF THE CRISIS IS YET TO COME ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT THE VACCINE WON'T PROTECT US FROM THE VARIANTS

Do you believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19?	What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?			Total
	The worst of the crisis is behind us	We are in the worst period of the crisis now	The worst of the crisis is yet to come	
Yes, I believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	44.2%	42.9%	14.3%	31.4%
No, I do not believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	27.9%	24.1%	47.7%	31.6%
I don't know	26.5%	33.0%	37.3%	36.1%
I prefer not to answer	1.3%		0.7%	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# THOSE LEAST FEARFUL OF GETTING COVID-19 ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT THE VACCINES WILL PROTECT US FROM THE VARIANTS

Do you believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19?	CTCI: Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Yes, I believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	36.5%	32.3%	31.5%	21.3%
No, I do not believe that the vaccines will protect us from getting new strains/variants of COVID-19	30.0%	28.9%	31.0%	48.1%
I don't know	33.2%	38.9%	36.7%	27.3%
I prefer not to answer	0.4%		0.8%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From April 9-11, 2021 some 1504 Canadians were surveyed via web panel

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1504 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.



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