

**NEARLY ONE IN THREE CANADIANS DO NOT THINK THAT THE VACCINE IS EFFECTIVE; SIX IN TEN WOULD TAKE A BOOSTER BUT AN IMPORTANT MINORITY ARE BOOSTER HESITANT**

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## INTRODUCTION:

# CURRENT BELIEF IN VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS AND THE DEGREE OF BOOSTER HESITATION

Booster shots and third doses of COVID-19 vaccines aren't currently recommended for most Canadians and health experts and federal agencies continue debating their need across the general population maintaining that the primary vaccine still provides sufficient protection against COVID-19. Each province and territory has enacted a third-dose policy for immunocompromised people and more recently booster shots have been recommended for all long term care residents and seniors living in similar settings at least six months after the primary vaccine. Surveys have confirmed that the majority of Canadians are open to taking a booster shot. An October 8-10 Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies confirms majority desire for a booster. In this analysis we examine the reasons for resistance to booster shots, but also look at the extent to which Canadians continue to believe in the effectiveness of the vaccine and establish the current level of what we'll call booster hesitation. Some 1545 Canadians were surveyed via web panel between October 8th and 10th, 2021 and while no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1537 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20

# Three in ten Canadians currently do not believe the vaccine is effective in preventing them from getting the virus

Do you believe the COVID-19 vaccine is effective in preventing you from getting the virus?						
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	71%	74%	68%	70%	66%	76%
No	29%	26%	32%	30%	34%	24%

Do you believe the COVID-19 vaccine is effective in preventing you from getting the virus?						
	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	64%	72%	72%	69%	65%	79%
No	36%	28%	28%	31%	35%	21%

# Six in ten Canadians would take a booster as soon as it is available while three in ten want to see how things evolve

When a booster shot against COVID-19 becomes available to the population and is free, do you intend to get one?												
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes - As soon as it's available to me	59%	61%	57%	43%	51%	50%	55%	64%	79%	48%	53%	72%
Maybe - I want to see how things evolve	31%	27%	34%	48%	37%	31%	32%	28%	18%	42%	31%	22%
No - I'll never get a booster shot	11%	13%	9%	9%	12%	19%	13%	8%	4%	11%	16%	6%

Those rejecting the booster see it is as unnecessary and that is mainly the case amongst Canadians under 35

Please tell us why you will not get the booster shot?				
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
I don't think a booster shot is necessary in general	63%	74%	61%	52%
I feel like I've already built-up immunity to COVID from the first round of vaccination	20%	26%	14%	30%
I had adverse side effects the first time I got the vaccine	7%	6%	9%	2%
I only got vaccinated in the first place because it was required for work/school	15%	20%	12%	14%
I still ended up contracting COVID even though I was vaccinated, so this isn't going to help	7%	7%	7%	6%
Something else	36%	25%	37%	48%

More than one In three 'Booster' Hesitant Canadians do not think that the vaccine is not effective in preventing Canadians from getting the virus

Do you believe the COVID-19 vaccine is effective in preventing you from getting the virus?	When a booster shot against COVID-19 becomes available to the population and is free, do you intend to get one?		
	Yes - As soon as it's available to me	Maybe - I want to see how things evolve (Booster Hesitant)	No - I'll never get a booster shot
Yes	85.0%	62.8%	17.8%
No	15.0%	37.2%	82.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# Persons with Higher levels of Education are more likely to want a booster shot when it becomes available

When a booster shot against COVID-19 becomes available to the population and is free, do you intend to get one?	SCOL: What is the last year of education that you have completed?						
	Elementary (7 years or less)	High school, general or vocational (8 to 12 years)	College (pre-university, technical training, certificate, accreditation or advanced diploma (13-15 years))	University certificates and diplomas	University Bachelor (including classical studies)	University Master's degree	University Doctorate (PhD)
<b>Yes - As soon as it's available to me</b>	44.4%	54.0%	58.3%	63.2%	64.7%	66.3%	81.2%
<b>Maybe - I want to see how things evolve</b>	44.4%	33.7%	30.9%	24.6%	27.9%	25.8%	12.5%
<b>No - I'll never get a booster shot</b>	11.1%	12.3%	10.9%	12.3%	7.4%	7.9%	6.2%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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