



ALTERNATE REALITIES: HOW THE BOOSTED, THE DOUBLE VACCINATED, AND THE UNVACCINATED RESPECTIVELY VIEW THE THREAT OF COVID, FEAR VACCINATION AND VACCINE PASSPORTS

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The evolving conversation and debate surrounding vaccination has generally been viewed bilaterally, pitting the vaccinated against the unvaccinated. On either end of the vaccine spectrum, public opinion surveys illustrate vastly different views about critical issues including the perceived threat of the contagion, the need for mitigation measures, vaccine mandates, and a range of other related issues. However, with the growing call from health experts for the public to receive a vaccine booster shot, we are now witnessing the emergence of a third group that is broadening the vaccine spectrum and somewhat altering the conversation. The rise of what might be described as the ‘boosted’ population has split the fully vaccinated into two groups, as their views diverge somewhat from those of the double vaccinated and the unvaccinated. A fourth group could be identified in the population that has received a single vaccine dose, but they represent a relatively small percentage and segment in national surveys, thus making it difficult to render any meaningful conclusions based on their responses.

The following surveys and analyses provide key insights into how the pandemic is currently viewed by the unvaccinated population in Canada, who amongst other things are far more fearful of the effects of vaccination than of Covid-19. The study also reveals a rift between the boosted and the double vaccinated regarding vaccine mandates, with the latter group displaying some softening of support for the mandates. Unsurprisingly, almost all unvaccinated Canadians reject the mandates/restrictions and would want them lifted immediately. Also, the unvaccinated are far less concerned about a new variant or another wave of Covid cases when compared to the other two groups.

The findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between January 7th and 9th, 2022 with 1547 Canadians 18 years of age or older and has a probabilistic margin of error of ± 2.9 .

VACCINATED CANADIANS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE CONCERNED THAN THE UNVACCINATED POPULATION ABOUT GETTING COVID 19

Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Total Afraid	67.4%	51.7%	14.5%	55.7%
Very afraid	20.4%	15.0%	2.1%	16.4%
Somewhat afraid	47.0%	36.7%	12.4%	39.3%
Not very afraid	23.2%	26.0%	30.9%	24.8%
Not afraid at all	6.6%	13.6%	49.5%	13.6%
I already have or have been exposed to the virus	2.1%	6.4%	5.2%	4.4%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	0.6%	2.3%		1.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

CANADIANS ARE SPLIT IN THEIR DEGREE OF CONCERN OVER VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS, WITH OVER 80% OF UNVACCINATED EXPRESSING CONCERN, WHILE THOSE WHO RECEIVED A BOOSTER ARE THE LEAST CONCERNED

Potential side effects of COVID vaccine - How concerned are you about each of following due to the COVID-19 pandemic?	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Very concerned	12.7%	20.3%	60.2%	20.4%
Somewhat concerned	25.4%	32.5%	22.4%	28.4%
TOTAL Concerned	38.1%	52.8%	82.6%	48.8%
Not too concerned	32.3%	32.2%	4.1%	30.0%
Not concerned at all	29.6%	15.0%	13.3%	21.2%
TOTAL Not concerned	61.9%	47.2%	17.4%	51.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

UNVACCINATED CANADIANS ARE SOME SIX TIMES MORE WORRIED OF VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS THAN OF CONTRACTING COVID

Not vaccinated	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	Potential side effects of COVID vaccine - How concerned are you about each of following due to the COVID-19 pandemic?
Total Concerned/Afraid	14.5%	82.6%
Very concerned/Very Afraid	2.1%	60.2%
Somewhat concerned/ Somewhat Afraid	12.4%	22.4%
Not too concerned/Not Very Afraid	30.9%	4.1%
Not concerned at all/ Not Afraid at all	49.5%	13.3%
Don't Know/ Refuse to Respond	5.2%	-----
Total	100.0%	100.0%

BOOSTED CANADIANS EVIDENCE STRONGER SUPPORT FOR VACCINE PASSPORTS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE DOUBLE DOSED POPULATION, WHILE THE UNVACCINATED SHOW WHOLESALE REJECTION OF SUCH MANDATES

Certain provincial governments have announced the implementation of a vaccine passport. This proof of vaccination will be required to visit certain public places deemed "non-essential" such as bars, restaurants, gyms, concert halls or festivals a	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Strongly support it	79.3%	48.3%	2.1%	58.3%
Somewhat support it	16.5%	30.9%	7.3%	22.4%
Somewhat oppose it	1.8%	9.8%	18.8%	6.7%
Strongly oppose it	2.4%	11.0%	71.9%	12.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THE “BOOSTED” AND THE UNVACCINATED ARE ON OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM WHEN IT COMES TO VACCINE MANDATES RESTRICTING ACCESS TO MALLS AND OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS

Only allowing those who have proof of vaccination to shop in person at malls and retail outlets (excluding grocery stores) - population	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Support	82.1%	57.8%	5.2%	64.4%
Oppose	10.6%	31.2%	93.8%	27.2%
I don't know	7.3%	11.0%	1.0%	8.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

SOME THREE IN FOUR VACCINATED CANADIANS DO NOT THINK

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY LIFT RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19, WHILE TWO IN THREE OF THE UNVACCINATED WANT THEM LIFTED RIGHT AWAY

Do you think governments should lift all restrictions related to COVID-19 right now?	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Yes	9.7%	22.1%	65.6%	20.3%
No	85.4%	71.5%	26.0%	73.4%
I don't know	4.9%	6.4%	8.3%	6.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

NEARLY EIGHT IN TEN CANADIANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT NEW COVID-19 VARIANTS, AND THAT FIGURE INCLUDES THE THREE IN TEN UNVACCINATED CANADIANS THAT HOLD A SIMILAR VIEW

New variants of COVID-19 - How concerned are you about each of following due to the COVID-19 pandemic?	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Very concerned	46.5%	32.9%	8.2%	37.0%
Somewhat concerned	43.4%	42.2%	21.6%	40.9%
Not too concerned	8.3%	17.1%	36.1%	14.4%
Not concerned at all	1.8%	7.8%	34.0%	7.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

75% OF CANADIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A NEW WAVE OF COVID-19 IN THEIR AREA, BUT LESS THAN ONE IN FOUR UNVACCINATED CANADIANS SHARE THE CONCERN

A new wave of COVID-19 in my area - How concerned are you about each of following due to the COVID-19 pandemic?	What is your vaccination status?			Total
	Two doses and a booster shot	Two doses	Not vaccinated	
Very concerned	37.7%	28.0%	10.4%	30.9%
Somewhat concerned	47.6%	44.8%	13.5%	43.6%
Not too concerned	12.8%	18.8%	42.7%	17.6%
Not concerned at all	1.8%	8.4%	33.3%	7.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

UNVACCINATED CANADIANS WHO CONTRACTED COVID DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFY THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE THREAT OF THE CONTAGION AND/OR ABOUT RELATED ISSUES

How concerned are you about each of the following? □		New variants		New wave of COVID-19	
Have had COVID-19? □		Yes	No / Don't know	Yes	No / Don't know
Two doses or Two doses & booster	Very concerned	40.8%	39.7%	28.3%	33.5%
	Somewhat concerned	38.3%	43.2%	44.2%	46.5%
	Not too concerned	14.2%	12.5%	20.0%	15.3%
	Not concerned at all	6.7%	4.6%	7.5%	4.8%
Not vaccinated or not sufficiently vaccinated	Very concerned	0.0%	12.6%	0.0%	13.7%
	Somewhat concerned	29.4%	24.2%	29.4%	15.8%
	Not too concerned	29.4%	32.6%	29.4%	40.0%
	Not concerned at all	41.2%	30.5%	41.2%	30.5%

CONCERN OVER VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS DOES NOT DECLINE AMONGST UNVACCINATED EVEN IF THEY CONTRACTED COVID-19

How concerned are you about each of the following? <input type="checkbox"/>		Potential side effects of the vaccine	
Have had COVID-19? <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes	No/Don't know
Two doses or Two doses & booster	Very concerned	20.7%	16.1%
	Somewhat concerned	33.9%	28.4%
	Not too concerned	23.1%	33.1%
	Not concerned at all	22.3%	22.4%
Not vaccinated or not sufficiently vaccinated	Very concerned	58.8%	60.6%
	Somewhat concerned	29.4%	23.4%
	Not too concerned	0.0%	5.3%
	Not concerned at all	11.8%	10.6%