
MASK WEARING: MORE CANADIANS SUPPORT DOING SO IN THEORY BUT NOT SO MUCH IN PRACTICE

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APRIL 14 2022

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

As mask mandates have been lifted in much of the country it is increasingly a personal decision as to whether or not to wear a mask. The recent rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in many parts of Canada has been associated with the decision to lift mask mandates in most public settings. Many experts continue to urge mask wearing in indoor public spaces. But surveys conducted over the month of March reveal that while there are many Canadians that think it is important to wear masks in indoor public spaces far less say they will actually do so. The gap between masking in theory and doing so in practice is especially pronounced amongst persons between the ages of 18 and 24 as well amongst Quebecers and Albertans. And those numbers may be high owing to the social desirability (in other words it is the right thing to say) of indicating that you intend to do so.

The findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies conducted during the middle of March, 2022 with 2939 Canadians 18 years of age or older. While a margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparative purposes a probability sample of 2 939 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 1.9\%$, 19 times out of 20

THREE IN FOUR CANADIANS SAY IT IS IMPORTANT TO WEAR A MASK IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES BUT LESS LIKELY TO DO SO IN PRACTICE WITH 18-24 DISPLAYING THE BIGGEST GAP IN THIS REGARD

	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
It is important to wear a mask in indoor public spaces	74%	70%	77%	75	65%	63	70	78	88%
I will continue to wear masks in indoor public spaces	57%	53%	60%	49%	51%	42%	56%	67%	68%
Difference	17	17	17	26	14	21	14	11	20

IN QUEBEC AND ALBERTA A MAJORITY REGARD MASK WEARING AS IMPORTANT BUT THE MAJORITY IN BOTH PROVINCES SAY THEY WILL NOT DO SO

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
It is important to wear a mask in indoor public spaces	74%	82%	69%	77%	69%	63%	81%
I will continue to wear masks in indoor public spaces	57%	62%	48%	64%	50%	44%	62%
Difference	17%	20%	21%	13%	19%	19%	19%

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Created on April 14 2022



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