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# COVID MYTHS? ONE IN EIGHT CANADIANS BELIEVE VACCINE MYTHS AND ANOTHER ONE IN FIVE UNSURE ABOUT THEM

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# INTRODUCTION: VACCINE MYTHS AND THE DEGREE OF ADHERENCE

- **National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW)** is an annual event held in the last week of April to highlight and recognize the importance of immunization. During NIAW, you will see increased publicity about the importance of immunization and the success and impact that immunization has had in protecting and saving lives. Many organizations, in Canada and around the world, participate in international strategies to raise awareness about the important role of vaccines. To mark the week we're releasing findings on the extent to which Canadians subscribe to myths about vaccination. We've compiled a list of nine myths and asked Canadians whether they're true, false or respondents simply don't know. We also offer comparative data on whether these myths are held in the United States and Mexico. See the highlights below:
- One in eight Canadians believe vaccine myths and another one in five unsure
- The most widely held myths are that "Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted" and that "The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are dangerous"
- Americans are far more likely to subscribe to myths about vaccination than are Canadians while Mexicans are the least likely to do so
- The findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies and the University of Manitoba during the middle of March 2022 with 2939 Canadians 18 years of age or older. A margin of error cannot be assigned because internet-based polls are not considered random.

**SOME ONE IN EIGHT CANADIANS SUBSCRIBE TO MYTHS ABOUT VACCINATION WITH ANOTHER ONE IN FIVE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE TRUE OR NOT; MOST COMMONLY HELD MYTHS ARE NOTION THAT THE VACCINE WAS RUSHED AND THEREFORE UNSAFE AND THAT VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS ARE DANGEROUS**

Canada	True	False	I don't know
Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted	22.8%	58.8%	18.4%
The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are dangerous	22.8%	58.8%	18.4%
If I've already had COVID-19, I don't need a vaccine -	14.9%	71.2%	13.9%
The COVID-19 vaccine can affect fertility	10.7%	50.2%	39.1%
Getting the COVID-19 vaccine means I can stop wearing my mask and taking coronavirus precautions	9.6%	82.3%	8.0%
The COVID-19 vaccine enters your cells and changes your DNA	9.4%	70.3%	20.3%
The COVID-19 vaccine was developed with or contains controversial substances like aborted fetuses -	7.8%	65.2%	27.1%
Getting the COVID-19 vaccine gives you COVID-19	7.7%	79.9%	12.4%
The COVID-19 vaccine contains a microchip that the government can use to track you	4.6%	83.5%	12.0%
<b>Total Average</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>(19%)</b>

# AMERICANS MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS AND MEXICANS TO SUBSCRIBE TO MYTHS ABOUT COVID 19

% True	Canada	United States	Mexico
Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted	22.8%	29.8%	24.8%
The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are dangerous	20.4%	27.2%	15.5%
If I've already had COVID-19, I don't need a vaccine -	14.9%	20.2%	4.2%
The COVID-19 vaccine can affect fertility	10.7%	19.9%	7.3%
Getting the COVID-19 vaccine means I can stop wearing my mask and taking coronavirus precautions	9.6%	16.0%	5.9%
The COVID-19 vaccine enters your cells and changes your DNA	9.4%	14.3%	9.9%
The COVID-19 vaccine was developed with or contains controversial substances like aborted fetuses -	7.8%	15.0%	5.2%
Getting the COVID-19 vaccine gives you COVID-19	7.7%	15.1%	10.3%
The COVID-19 vaccine contains a microchip that the government can use to track you	4.5%	10.6%	4.7%
<b>Overall average</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>10%</b>

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