



# CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONAVIRUS – N°16: MASKING OR UNMASKING? CANADIANS INCREASINGLY WEARING PROTECTIVE MASK IN PUBLIC SPACES AS COVID- 19 CRISIS EVOLVES

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[HTTPS://ACS-AEC.CA/EN/COVID-19-SOCIAL-IMPACTS-NETWORK/](https://acs-aec.ca/en/covid-19-social-impacts-network/)

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# PROTECTIVE MASKS: TO WEAR THEM OR NOT?

Will most Canadians be wearing masks as we increasingly re-enter the public space across Canada? This is a question that continues to generate conversation.

- While the World Health Organization and Canadian public health officials have staunchly advised against the widespread use of face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, other countries have taken the opposite approach by strongly encouraging or even mandating they be worn in public.
- Japan and South Korea, two countries that have been relatively successful in curbing the spread of the coronavirus, distributed face masks to every household. Austria has ordered that everyone must wear a face mask in supermarkets and, more recently, the Czech Republic and Slovakia have imposed mandatory mask-wearing at all times in public.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/to-wear-or-not-to-wear-canadian-doctors-weigh-in-on-use-of-face-masks-for-all-1.4880928>

OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS THE PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS WEARING A PROTECTIVE MASK IN PUBLIC AREAS ROSE FROM ONE-FIFTH TO ONE-THIRD AND WOMEN SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO WEAR A PROTECTIVE MASK

Wear a protective mask in public areas - In the past week, have you done any of the following:	Total	Male	Female
April 3-5	20.7%	19.8%	21.5%
April 17-19	32%	31%	32%

**QUEBECERS AND PARTICULARLY FRANCOPHONES WERE BY FAR LEAST LIKELY TO WEAR A PROTECTIVE MASK IN PUBLIC WHILE ONTARIANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO DO SO**

	<b>Wear a protective mask in public areas - In the past week</b>					
April 17-19	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
YES	27%	<b>21%</b>	<b>40%</b>	30%	28%	31%
NO	73%	<b>79%</b>	<b>60%</b>	70%	72%	69%

Canada	<b>Wear a protective mask in public areas - In the past week</b>		
April 17-19	French	English	Other
YES	<b>18%</b>	32%	<b>53%</b>
NO	<b>82%</b>	68%	<b>47%</b>

# ALLOPHONES/ETHNIC MINORITIES IN CANADA ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT WEARING A NON-SURGICAL MASK PROVIDES PROTECTION FROM COVID 19

Canada	To what extent do you think wearing a non-surgical mask protects you from getting the COVID-19 virus?			
April 17-19	Total	French	English	Other
<b>Totally protects</b>	5%	4%	4%	<b>9%</b>
<b>Partially protects</b>	68%	69%	66%	<b>76%</b>
<b>Does not protect at all</b>	28%	28%	<b>30%</b>	<b>15%</b>

# THERE WAS A TEN PERCENT INCREASE IN THE DEGREE TO WHICH CANADIANS GOING OUT GROCERY SHOPPING REPORTED WEARING A PROTECTIVE MASK

Wear a protective mask in public areas - In the past week, have you done any of the following:	Went Grocery shopping in the past week	
	April 3-5, 2020	April 17-19, 2020
Yes	20%	31%
No	80%	69%
Total	100.0%	100%

# THOSE MORE FEARFUL OF THE VIRUS ARE MORE LIKELY TO WEAR A PROTECTIVE MASK IN PUBLIC AREAS WITH MAJORITY OF THOSE MOST FEARFUL REPORTING THEY WORE A MASK

Wear a protective mask in public areas - In the past week, have you done any of the following:	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
April 3-5	37.8%	19.4%	11.7%	12.3%
April 17-19	53.3%	33.9%	21.0%	16.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# RECENT IMMIGRANTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT WEARING A NON-SURGICAL MASK PROTECTS YOU FROM GETTING COVID 19

To what extent do you think wearing a non-surgical mask protects you from getting the COVID-19 virus?				
	Total	Less than 5 years	5 years or more	Non-immigrant
Totally protects	5%	14%	9%	4%
Partially protects	67%	72%	72%	66%
Does not protect at all	28%	13%	19%	30%



# IMMIGRANTS AND PARTICULARLY NEWCOMERS ARE FAR MORE LIKELY THAN NON-IMMIGRANTS TO HAVE WORN A PROTECTIVE MASK OVER THE PAST WEEK

In the past week, have you worn a protective mask in public areas

	Total	Less than 5 years	5 years or more	Non-immigrant
April 3-5	21%	41%	34%	17%
April 17-19	32%	58%	48%	28%

## MOST GROUPS SAW INCREASES IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WORE PROTECTIVE MASKS: FILIPINO AND SOUTH ASIAN CANADIANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO WEAR PROTECTIVE MASKS

	Wear a protective mask in public areas - In the past week, have you done any of the following:	
	April 3-5	April 17-19
Caucasian (white)	15.4%	26.8%
Latin American (Mexican, Chilean, Costa Rican, etc.)	41.9%	46.7%
Arabic (Middle East, North Africa)	37.1%	35%
Black (African, African-American, etc.)	41.5%	50%
South Asian (Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	51.7%	56.9%
Chinese	55.4%	52.5%
Filipino	63.0%	76.5%
Total	20.7%	32%

# METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies with 2015 Canadians, (that included 700 immigrants) 18 years of age or older, was collected via an online panel between April 17 to 19, 2020 and offers comparisons with the survey conducted between April 3-5, 2020

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 1500 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20. That 'margin' rises for survey sub groups

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