

MASKCONFUSION? WHILE AMERICANS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS TO AGREE THAT MANDATORY MASKS ARE A RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT, ALL THAT WEARING A MASK IN PUBLIC PLACES SHOULD BE LAW

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# MANDATORY MASK WEARING: AMERICANS MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS TO SEE IT AS AN ACCEPTABLE RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT

- Views around mask wearing have evolved considerably since the outbreak of the contagion and the latest Leger –Association for Canadian Studies confirms that majorities in both countries agree that wearing a mask in public places should be mandatory. Where Americans and Canadians differ is in the extent to which they respectively feel that such a requirement is a rights infringement as Americans are far more likely to agree that rights are at issue. Yet despite the fact that Americans strongly agree that the mask requirement is a rights infringement they nonetheless believe that mask wearing should be mandatory. For their part, Canadians that strongly feel that mandatory masks are a rights infringement are in the majority of the opinion that it should not be mandatory. On this matter the idea of a notwithstanding the commitment to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness a sort of notwithstanding provision seems more acceptable in the United States than it is in Canada.
- The surveys were conducted by the firm Leger Marketing and the Association for Canadian Studies between July 10 to July 12, 2020 with a national sample of 1,523 Canadians and 1,001 Americans via web panel with a probabilistic margin of error of 2.5 points 19 times out of 20 for the Canadian sample and 3.1 points 19 times out of 20 for the American sample.

# AMERICANS MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS TO AGREE THAT MASK WEARING SHOULD BE MANDATORY

Should governments make wearing a mask mandatory in all indoor public spaces (public transit, restaurants, grocery stores, shops, etc.)?

Canada	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	18-34	35-54	55+
67%	53%	72%	75%	57%	57%	53%	66%	61%	72%

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United States	NE	MW	South	West	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
72%	79%	69%	68%	76%	77%	72%	73%	68%	72%

**AMERICANS (41%) ARE FAR MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS (27%) TO THINK THAT REQUIRING PEOPLE TO WEAR MASKS IN PUBLIC SPACES IS A RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT ( AND THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE FOR YOUNGER MEN)**

Total - Agree that requiring people to wear a mask in public places is an infringement on their personal freedoms														
Canada	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
27%	32%	23%	26%	35%	31%	31%	24%	16%	23%	25%	25%	20%	35%	35%

Total - Agree that requiring people to wear a mask in public places is an infringement on their personal freedoms											
United States	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	NE	MW	South	West
41%	47%	34%	51%	42%	44%	38%	26%	36%	42%	45%	35%

**MAJORITY OF AMERICANS THAT STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT MANDATORY MASKS ARE A RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT STILL FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD BE MANDATORY; BY CONTRAST IN CANADA THOSE WHO STRONGLY BELIEVE IT IS AN INFRINGEMENT DO NOT FEEL MASK WEARING SHOULD BE MANDATORY**

USA In your opinion, should governments make wearing a mask mandatory in all indoor public spaces (public transit, restaurants, grocery stores, shops, etc.)?	Requiring people to wear a mask in public places is an infringement on their personal freedoms			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Yes	56.1%	42.5%	77.7%	94.6%
No	41.1%	45.8%	9.1%	3.3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	2.8%	11.8%	13.2%	2.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

CANADA In your opinion, should governments make wearing a mask mandatory in all indoor public spaces (public transit, restaurants, grocery stores, shops, etc.)?	Requiring people to wear a mask in public places is an infringement on their personal freedoms			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Yes	34.9%	33.3%	59.6%	88.5%
No	61.2%	61.7%	29.8%	8.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	3.8%	5.0%	10.6%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# OVER EIGHT IN TEN MONTREALERS BELIEVE MASKS SHOULD BE MANDATORY WHILE 2 IN 3 FEEL THAT WAY ELSEWHERE IN QUEBEC

Should governments make wearing a mask mandatory in all indoor public spaces (public transit, restaurants, grocery stores, shops, etc.)?	MTL RMR	Rest of Quebec	Total
Yes	81%	64%	72%
No	18%	29%	23%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	2%	7%	5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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