
BACK TO SCHOOL: QUEBECERS BY FAR MOST OPEN IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO REOPEN SCHOOLS THIS SEPTEMBER

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AUGUST 2 2020

INTRODUCTION

Schools will reopen in September amidst controversy about COVID-19 and the conversation/debate over reopening has been difficult in parts of Canada and the United States. It is in Quebec where the level of comfort with school reopening is highest across all regions in the two countries. In large part, this is attributable to the lesser degree of anxiety amongst Quebecers about getting COVID-19. That said, Quebecers are broadly supportive of the various measures that will accompany school reopening whether it is social distancing, screening questionnaires, taking temperatures and mandatory mask wearing for both teachers and students. Canadians are more inclined to support mask wearing for teachers than they are for students and most believe that schools/school boards can provide the masks.

QUEBECERS ARE BY FAR THE LEAST WORRIED IN NORTH AMERICA ABOUT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITH SCHOOLS REOPENING IN THE FALL

Elementary and high schools are planning to re-open in the next month or so. Does this make you more worried, less worried or not change your concerns toward personally contracting the COVID-19 virus?

	Canada	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	United States	NE	MW	South	West
More worried	41%	43%	22%	49%	42%	43%	49%	51%	43%	50%	59%	46%
Less worried	7%	3%	13%	7%	5%	7%	4%	7%	8%	10%	5%	6%
Not change my feeling	48%	50%	62%	40%	46%	49%	43%	37%	41%	38%	29%	45%
I don't know	3%	4%	3%	4%	7%	1%	4%	6%	8%	3%	7%	3%

CANADIANS FAR MORE LIKELY TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL THAN AMERICANS AND QUEBECERS MOST INCLINED TO DO SO

When/if school resumes in your state this fall, and assuming there is some form of in classroom instruction at least a few days a week, will you send your children to school or keep them at home?

	Canada	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	United States	NE	MW	South	West
Yes, I will send to school	59%	65%	77%	54%	67%	58%	40%	41%	57%	35%	38%	43%
No, I will keep them at home	18%	15%	10%	22%	5%	29%	12%	44%	30%	49%	48%	41%
Don't know at this time	23%	20%	13%	25%	29%	13%	48%	15%	13%	16%	14%	16%

FRANCOPHONES BY FAR ARE MOST LIKELY TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL UPON RESUMPTION

When/if school resumes in your province this fall, and assuming there is some form of in classroom instruction at least a few days a week, will you send your children to school or keep them at home?

	French	English	Others
Yes, I will send to school	86%	54%	50%
No, I will keep them at home	7%	19%	23%
Don't know at this time	6%	26%	27%

LEVEL OF STRESS ABOUT LEAVING HOME IS A DETERMINING FACTOR IN SENDING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL THIS FALL

When/if school resumes in your province this fall, and assuming there is some form of in classroom instruction at least a few days a week, will you send your children to school or keep them at home?	When you have to leave your house and be out in public, to what extent do you find that stressful?			
	Very stressful	Somewhat stressful	Not very stressful	Not stressful at all
Yes, I will send to school	34.1%	45.8%	71.8%	81.5%
No, I will keep them at home	36.4%	25.7%	7.7%	7.7%
Don't know at this time	29.5%	28.5%	20.4%	10.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

CANADIANS AND AMERICANS AGREE THAT MASKS ARE NECESSARY FOR BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BUT CANADIANS MORE LIKELY TO SEE THE NECESSITY OF MASKS FOR TEACHERS; MAJORITY IN BOTH COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT SCHOOLS/SCHOOL BOARDS SHOULD PROVIDE THE MASKS

When/if elementary and high school classes resume which of the following measures should be put in place on a daily basis....

YES	United States	Canada	Quebec	Rest of Canada
Protective mask wearing for students	82%	65%	62%	66%
Protective mask wearing for teachers/staff	87%	81%	81%	80%

...it is realistic for the schools/school boards to provide masks for all students?

United States	Canada	Quebec	Rest of Canada
64%	54%	48%	56%

METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From July 24th to July 26th 2020

1517 Canadians and 1004 Americans 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

In Canada 391 parents with school aged children were surveyed compared the United States 296 parents were surveyed

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 1510 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1004 would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.08\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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Created on August 2, 2020



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