

MYTHS OF IMMUNITY AND ADDED CONFUSION ABOUT VIRUS:  
MILLIONS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES THINK THEY' RE  
IMMUNE TO COVID-19, MANY STILL THINK THAT IT'S NOT MORE  
DANGEROUS THAN THE FLU AND THERE REMAINS CONFUSION  
ABOUT HOW THE CONTAGION IS TRANSMITTED

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# INTRODUCTION : MANY CANADIANS AND AMERICANS STILL NEED TO EDUCATED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF COVID-19

- Some 2.5 million Canadians think they are immune to COVID-19; so do over 50 million Americans.
- Just under 2 in 3 Americans see COVID-19 as more dangerous than the flu; 3 in 4 Canadians see it as more dangerous than the flu.
- Getting the Virus? Canadians 35 and over most inclined to rightly think that the virus is transmitted via droplets while youngest cohort (18-24) think it is via body contact with an infected person.

# IMMUNITY: MYTH AND FACT

Millions of Americans and Canadians believe they're immune to COVID-19. Yet science and medicine would suggest otherwise. Initial results of the first 10,000 blood donor samples assessed for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. This analysis reveals that over the period May 9 through June 8, 2020, fewer than 1 per cent of the 10,000 samples from blood donors tested positive for antibodies to the novel coronavirus. Antibodies indicate past infection with SARS-CoV-2, and population studies like this one tell us how many people have likely been exposed to the virus.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/channels/news/new-study-offers-first-glimpse-how-widespread-covid-19-antibodies-are-canadas-adult-population-323356>

# SOME 2.5 MILLION CANADIANS THINK THEY ARE IMMUNE TO COVID-19; SO DO OVER 50 MILLION AMERICANS

In your opinion do you think you are immune to the COVID-19 Virus?									
Canada	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Yes	8%	10%	6%	13%	18%	8%	5%	5%	2%
No	92%	90%	94%	87%	82%	92%	95%	95%	98%

In your opinion do you think you are immune to the COVID-19 Virus?								
United States	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Yes	19%	25%	14%	33%	32%	16%	9%	9%
No	81%	75%	86%	67%	68%	84%	91%	91%

## HOW IS THE VIRUS TRANSMITTED; CONFUSION PERSISTS

According to the World Health Organization, current evidence suggests that COVID-19 spreads between people through direct, indirect (through contaminated objects or surfaces), or close contact with infected people via mouth and nose secretions. These include saliva, respiratory secretions or secretion droplets. These are released from the mouth or nose when an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings, for example. People who are in close contact (within 1 metre) with an infected person can catch COVID-19 when those infectious droplets get into their mouth, nose or eyes. (<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-how-is-covid-19-transmitted>)

# JUST UNDER 2 IN 3 AMERICANS SEE COVID-19 AS MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE FLU; 3 IN 4 CANADIANS SEE IT AS MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE FLU

Do you think COVID-19 is more dangerous, as dangerous or less dangerous than the seasonal flu?									
Canada	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
More dangerous	75%	74%	76%	77%	65%	72%	68%	78%	89%
As dangerous	21%	20%	21%	17%	31%	23%	27%	18%	10%
Less dangerous	4%	5%	2%	6%	4%	5%	5%	4%	0%

Do you think COVID-19 is more dangerous, as dangerous or less dangerous than the seasonal flu?								
United States	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
More dangerous	63%	65%	62%	64%	64%	59%	62%	67%
As dangerous	28%	25%	31%	26%	29%	29%	29%	27%
Less dangerous	9%	10%	8%	10%	7%	12%	9%	6%

# HOW DO YOU GET THE VIRUS? CANADIANS 35 AND OVER MOST INCLINED TO THINK IT'S DROPLETS WHILE YOUNGEST COHORT THINK IT IS VIA BODY CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON

Rank in order of importance the most likely way that someone can get the COVID-19 virus.									
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Droplet of the Virus from sneezing...	44%	44%	43%	25%	36%	49%	45%	48%	52%
Body contact with an infected person	32%	30%	34%	53%	34%	28%	26%	31%	31%
Coughing in Public	11%	12%	10%	12%	15%	7%	11%	12%	9%
Through Handshake	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%	3%	4%	1%	2%
Poor hygiene	8%	8%	7%	11%	9%	8%	9%	6%	5%
Touching counters or objects	3%	2%	3%	0%	5%	5%	4%	2%	0%

# QUEBECERS ALSO MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT YOU GET COVID-19 FROM BODY CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON

Rank in order of importance the most likely way that someone can get the COVID-19 virus.		
	Quebec	Rest of Canada
Droplet of the Virus from sneezing ...	38%	46%
Body contact with an infected person	46%	28%
Coughing in public	7%	12%
Through Handshake	3%	2%
Poor hygiene	5%	9%
Touching counters or objects	1%	3%



# METHODOLOGY

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

From September 11 to 13, 2020

1536 Canadians and 1001 Americans 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

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 1536 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20 and 1001 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5\%$ , 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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