

Report

Quebec: Should the Vaccine be Mandatory or Voluntary?

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By Jack Jedwab, CEO of Association for Canadian Studies



Alberta and Ontario both oppose mandatory vaccine

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney But if British Columbia were to decide otherwise what will it mean for interprovincial mobility. Ontario's chief medical officer of health, Dr. David Williams, says the COVID-19 vaccine will be treated the same as other immunizations: not mandatory, but required for certain access. He insists that the government can't force anyone to take it.

"What we can do is to say sometimes for access or ease in getting into certain settings, if you don't have vaccinations, then you're not allowed into that setting without other protection materials," he said. Some examples would include school attendance, hospitals and long-term care, Williams said.

This Leger-Association for Canadian Studies survey reveals that a majority in each province feel that such a decision should be made the federal government (including a majority in my home province of Quebec).

Most Quebecers think that the Federal Government should determine whether the COVID-19 Vaccine should be mandatory or voluntary

Which level of government should determine whether the COVID-19 vaccine is mandatory?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The Federal Government	57%	59%	54%	57%	57%	59%	57%
The Provincial Governments	11%	10%	15%	11%	9%	3%	10%
Neither	22%	23%	23%	20%	21%	25%	22%
I don't know	11%	9%	7%	12%	13%	13%	11%

While the majority of Quebecers prefer that the COVID-19 vaccine be voluntary, Montrealers are considerably more likely than other Quebecers to prefer a mandatory vaccine

When an approved COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to the population, do you think it should be...			
	Quebec	Montreal	Rest of Quebec
Mandatory for all	43.5	47	40
Voluntary	53.5	50	57
I don't know	3	3	3

A major divide exists between non-francophone and francophone Quebecers over whether the vaccine should be mandatory

When an approved COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to the population, do you think it should be...			
	Quebec	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Mandatory for all	43.5	39	55
Voluntary	53.5	58	41
I don't know	3	3	4

Two thirds of Quebecers say they will take the vaccine once it has been approved by Health Canada

When a vaccine for COVID-19 that had been approved by Health Canada becomes available to the population and it is free, do you intend to get vaccinated?			
	Quebec	Montreal	Rest of Quebec
Yes	65%	66	64%

When a vaccine for COVID-19 that had been approved by Health Canada becomes available to the population and it is free, do you intend to get vaccinated?			
	Quebec	Francophone	Non-Francopone
Yes	65%	64.5%	68%

Non-Francophones more likely than francophones to think that employers should have the right to require employees to take the COVID-19 vaccine

Employers should have the right to require employees to take the COVID-19 vaccine - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following?			
	Quebec	Montreal	Rest of Quebec
Agree	59%	64%	55%

Employers should have the right to require employees to take the COVID-19 vaccine - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following?			
	Quebec	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Agree	59%	57%	68%

Non-francophones more favorable than francophones to further tighten/reinforce restrictions to drive the number of cases closer to zero

	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Ease restrictions as soon as possible, even if there is a possibility of another wave in early 2021	22.3	15.8
Maintain the current restrictions until the number of cases are closer to zero	57.7	55.5
Further tighten/reinforce restrictions to drive the number of cases closer to zero	20.1	28.7

Non-Montrealers more favorable to easing COVID-19 restrictions

	Quebec	Montreal	Rest of Quebec
Ease restrictions as soon as possible, even if there is a possibility of another wave in early 2021	20.6	18	23.1
Maintain the current restrictions until the number of cases are closer to zero	57.2	57.3	57.2
Further tighten/reinforce restrictions to drive the number of cases closer to zero	22.2	24.7	19.7

METHODOLOGY & NOTES



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



Data collected from November 27-29, 2020



1,566 Canadians ≥ 18 years, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.



Using data from the 2016 Census, results are weighted by 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). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1,522 respondents has a margin of error of $\pm 2.51\%$, 19 times out of 20,. The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

If you have questions about the data presented in this report, please contact Jack Jedwab, President & CEO of the Association for Canadian Studies at the following e-mail address: jack.jedwab@acs-aec.ca, or Paul Holley, Research Director at the Association for Canadian Studies at paul.holley@acs-aec.ca.