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# AS EASTER WEEKEND APPROACHES A MAJORITY OF CANADIANS FEEL UNSAFE AT FAMILY GATHERINGS BUT ONE IN FOUR CANADIANS STILL THINK PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES ARE EXAGGERATED

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# INTRODUCTION

As Easter weekend approaches there is much concern on the part of public health officials about the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of COVID-19 and the threat of variants of the contagion. Elected officials are once again calling for Canadians to be prudent and avoid gatherings. It is a difficult but necessary ask on their part at a time of year when many Canadians are accustomed to gathering with family and friends to mark the long weekend. A Leger survey for the University of Manitoba and the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that a majority of Canadians (56%) feel unsafe attending family gatherings with such feelings being especially pronounced in Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario. Canadians under 55 are least likely to feel unsafe attending such gatherings. With the support of the Canadian Institute for Health Research, the survey of 2200 Canadians was conducted via web panel between March 15 and 25, 2021 and has a probabilistic margin of error of  $\pm 1.9\%$ , 19 times out of 20. The survey further reveals that some seven in ten Canadians often limit contact with people at higher risk (i.e. an elderly relative). And finally that some one in four Canadians think that the threat posed by covid 19 and the need for rigorous public health measures is exaggerated

# SOME SIX IN TEN QUEBECERS, BRITISH COLOMBIANS AND ONTARIANS ARE LEAST COMFORTABLE ATTENDING FAMILY GATHERINGS

Attend a family gathering - Thinking about your feelings today, please answer the following questions: Do you currently feel safe or not engaging in the following activities?								
March 15-25, 2021	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	Atl.	United States
<b>Yes</b>	41%	38%	49%	48%	38%	34%	58%	<b>49%</b>
<b>No</b>	56%	59%	49%	46%	58%	60%	37%	<b>45%</b>
<b>Not applicable</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>I prefer not to answer</b>	4%	2%	2%	7%	3%	6%	4%	<b>6%</b>

# CANADIANS UNDER 55 ARE MOST COMFORTABLE ATTENDING FAMILY GATHERINGS

Attend a family gathering - Thinking about your feelings today, please answer the following questions: Do you currently feel safe or not engaging in the following activities?

March 15-25, 2021	Canada	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes	41%	43%	51%	46%	43%	36%	29%
No	56%	52%	43%	51%	54%	62%	67%
Not applicable	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
I prefer not to answer	4%	5%	7%	3%	3%	3%	4%

# SOME SEVEN IN TEN CANADIANS OFTEN LIMIT CONTACT WITH PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK WITH WOMEN SAYING THEY DO SO MOST OFTEN

Limited contact with people at higher risk (e.g., an elderly relative) - Have often have you done the following since March 2020?

March 15-25, 2021	Canada	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Never	9%	11%	6%	6%	8%	8%	7%	7%	14%
Rarely	7%	8%	6%	10%	9%	4%	5%	5%	8%
Occasionally	13%	16%	11%	16%	16%	13%	14%	12%	10%
Often	70%	64%	76%	64%	66%	73%	73%	76%	68%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%

# QUEBECERS SAY THAT THEY'RE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THAT THEY OFTEN AVOID CONTACT WITH PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK

Limited contact with people at higher risk (e.g., an elderly relative) - Have often have you done the following since March 2020?

March 15-25, 2021	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	Atl.	United States
Never	9%	9%	5%	14%	10%	5%	12%	11%
Rarely	7%	8%	7%	8%	7%	5%	6%	9%
Occasionally	13%	13%	15%	13%	14%	10%	20%	20%
Often	70%	70%	74%	60%	67%	79%	61%	58%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	0%	5%	1%	1%	1%	2%

# MEN AND PERSONS UNDER 45 ARE MOST LIKELY TO THINK THE THREAT IS EXAGGERATED

THREAT: Do you believe that the threat posed by COVID-19 and the need for continued and rigorous public health safety measures (such as wearing masks in public places, limiting people in gatherings, physical distancing, etc.) are being exaggerated by the governments and health officials?									
March 15-25, 2021	Canada	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes, the threat and the need for health protection measures is exaggerated	23%	26%	20%	29%	32%	30%	25%	18%	9%
No, the threat and necessity of health protection measures is real and not being exaggerated.	73%	70%	75%	65%	62%	66%	71%	78%	88%
I prefer not to answer	4%	3%	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%

# SOME ONE IN FOUR CANADIANS THINK THAT THE THREAT POSED BY COVID-19 AND THE NEED FOR RIGOROUS MEASURES IS EXAGGERATED

Do you believe that the threat posed by COVID-19 and the need for continued and rigorous public health safety measures (such as wearing masks in public places, limiting people in gatherings, physical distancing, etc.) are being exaggerated by the governments and health officials?								
March 15-25, 2021	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	Atl.	United States
Yes, the threat and the need for health protection measures is exaggerated	23%	17%	28%	36%	22%	23%	21%	33%
No, the threat and necessity of health protection measures is real and not being exaggerated.	73%	77%	69%	58%	75%	72%	75%	62%
I prefer not to answer	4%	5%	3%	6%	3%	5%	4%	4%



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