

IS IT SAFE TO VACCINATE CHILDREN AGE 12-17?

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AUGUST 17, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- According to the BC centre for Disease control “when a child is vaccinated, they can be exposed to COVID-19 without getting sick. If they do get sick, it’s usually not very serious. Most children aren’t likely to get very sick from COVID-19, but some children will. Being vaccinated is the best way to protect children from COVID-19. Having children vaccinated helps protect the people around them too, including those who might get very sick from COVID-19. If a child is vaccinated, they are much less likely to spread COVID-19.” Clinical trials showed that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is safe and effective for 12-17 year olds. Still, in the UK officials have expressed uncertainty over whether it is worth vaccinating that age group (<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-57203521>)

As we shall observe an important minority of Canadians including parents have safety concerns and remain uncertain about vaccine safety for that age cohort. These findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies between July 2 and 4, 2021 with 1518 Canadians.

TWO IN THREE CANADIANS THINK IT IS SAFE TO VACCINATE CHILDREN AGED 12-17

Do you think that it is safe for children of 12-17 years of age to get the COVID-19 vaccine?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	65%	68%	72%	61%	65%	60%	65%
No	15%	9%	14%	18%	9%	19%	10%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	20%	23%	15%	20%	26%	21%	25%

SIX IN TEN PARENTS THINK IT IS SAFE TO VACCINATE CHILDREN AGED 12-17, STILL NEARLY ONE IN FOUR DO NOT THINK SO AND ONE IN SIX ARE UNCERTAIN

Do you think that it is safe for children of 12-17 years of age to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

	Total	With Children	Without Children
Yes	65%	59%	67%
No	15%	23%	12%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	20%	17%	21%

AMONGST THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT IS SAFE TO VACCINATE SOME OVER ONE IN FIVE SAY THEIR CHILDREN AGED 12-17 HAVE ALREADY BEEN VACCINATED AND MAJORITY OF OTHERS WOULD DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

When would you get your children vaccinated?		
	With Children	Adjusted for those parents that have yet to have their kids vaccinated
As soon as possible	43%	78%
Before school starts	9%	16.5%
Wait until winter	3%	5.5%
My child(ren) is/are already vaccinated	22%	-
I do not have children between the ages of 12 and 17	23%	-

AMONGST THOSE THINKING VACCINATION IS SAFE FOR CHILDREN AGED 12-17 SOME 90% BELIEVE THE VACCINE IS EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE DELTA VARIANT AS DO TWO IN THREE THAT ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT VACCINATION; JUST OVER ONE IN FOUR OPPOSED TO VACCINATION OF 12-17 YEAR OLDS FEEL THAT THE VACCINE WILL BE EFFECTIVE

How confident are you that vaccination effectively protects against the COVID-19 variants, including the Delta variant?	Do you think that it is safe for children of 12-17 years of age to get the COVID-19 vaccine?		
	Yes	No	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Very confident	26.1%	4.8%	10.4%
Somewhat confident	64.3%	22.9%	56.4%
Not very confident	8.5%	23.3%	17.6%
Not at all confident	0.8%	45.8%	8.1%
I prefer not to answer	0.2%	3.1%	7.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE WHO THINK IT IS SAFE TO GET VACCINATED ARE IN THE MAJORITY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPREAD OF THE DELTA VARIANT WHILE THOSE WHO THINK IT UNSAFE ARE IN THE MAJORITY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE VARIANT

Considered to be more contagious than the original form of COVID-19, the Delta variant is spreading rapidly. How concerned are you about contracting the Delta variant of COVID-19?	Do you think that it is safe for children of 12-17 years of age to get the COVID-19 vaccine?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	
Very concerned	22.3%	16.2%	19.8%	20.9%
Somewhat concerned	41.4%	25.4%	39.3%	38.6%
Not very concerned	28.1%	21.1%	24.0%	26.2%
Not at all concerned	7.8%	35.1%	13.6%	13.1%
I prefer not to answer	0.3%	2.2%	3.2%	1.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

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

From, July 2-4, 2021 some 1518 Canadians were surveyed via web 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 1518 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 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 August 17 , 2021



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