



The unvaccinated

TORONTO, January 19, 2022—The results of a national survey released today by Maru Public Opinion delves into the attitudes of Canadians towards the one-in-ten (9%) of their neighbours nationally who admit they are currently unvaccinated. The study also details some of the driving elements of why that group remains unvaccinated.

Canadians view the unvaccinated as responsible for overwhelming the health care system (48%), people who are holding Canadians back from having a new normal life (40%), endangering society (36%), misguided conspiracy theorists (36%), good people with legitimate reasons/concerns (27%), reckless (26%), super-spreaders of the virus (17%), and/or heroes for free speech/choice (12%). In addition, A majority (54%) say they don't have sympathy for the unvaccinated who get seriously ill or die from COVID (46%).

In contrast, for those who remain unvaccinated, their reasons for doing so are varied and numerous: they are defending their civil liberty to make a choice for themselves (45%), waiting on more data to see if it is truly safe for them to get the vaccine (42%), believing their immune system can beat COVID so there is no need for it (32%), being anxious/scared as to what it could do to them (28%), not wanting government telling them what to do (22%), being concerned about the potential impact to their genetic structure (21%), not wanting something foreign put in their body (15%), that it's a hoax—it's just a bad flu, not a killer (9%), and/or it's just what drug companies have concocted to get rich (7%).

Regardless, two-thirds (66%) of Canadians favor mandatory vaccinations for everyone aged 5+. However, a majority (82%) are open to some exemptions with the most sway coming by way of a legitimate/ diagnosed and attested to medical condition (77% of that group), compared to a host of others that garnered less than one-in-five support for each.

For those who refuse to be vaccinated, Canadians find a variety of measures acceptable, in varying degrees, that might be used to more forcibly encourage them to get the jab: ongoing restrictions from entering public spaces and premises such as restaurants, cinemas, libraries, liquor and cannabis stores, and various retail outlets (77%), followed by having them pay out of pocket for the full medical cost if they are admitted to hospital or an ICU because they have contracted COVID (61%), pay a monetary healthcare surcharge on their taxes of up to \$150 per month (61%), refuse to allow them access to any publicly funded hospital/medical services (37%), refuse them the renewal of their driver's license (33%), and even for some (27%), have them serve up to five (5) days as part of a jail sentence for endangering others/overwhelming healthcare system.



One-in-ten Canadians have refused to get a COVID vaccination

One-in-ten (9%) Canadians have refused to get a Covid vaccine. This group is most likely to be found in Alberta (12%), Québec (12%), and Ontario (11%), followed by those living in Atlantic Canada (5%) and British Columbia (5%), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (3%).

These individuals are equally likely to be men (10%) and women (9%), with those who are the youngest Canadians (aged 18-34, 10%) aligned with those who are middle-aged (aged 35-54, 11%) but not so much with those who are the oldest (55+, 6%). While income level does not appear to be a significant differentiator, education is, as those with college education or less (11%) are more likely than those who are highest educated (University +, 5%) to admit to being unvaccinated.

Of those Canadians who have refused to get a Covid vaccine (9%) their main reasons for refusing to do so are as follows:

- I'm defending my civil liberty to make a choice for me – **45%**
- Waiting on more data to see if it is truly safe to get it – **42%**
- My immune system can beat COVID, so I don't need it – **32%**
- I'm anxious/scared as to what it could do to me – **28%**
- I don't want government telling me what to do – **22%**
- I'm concerned about the potential impact to my genetic structure – **21%**
- I don't want something foreign put in my body – **15%**
- It's a hoax—it's just a bad flu, not a killer – **9%**
- It's just what drug companies have concocted to get rich – **7%**
- It's a global conspiracy to control those who get it – **4%**
- The vaccine will give me the virus and make me sick or die – **3%**
- It's against my religion to get it – **1%**

[respondents were allowed to choose up to three reasons]

How do Canadian's view those who refuse to be vaccinated?

Asked to provide feedback on their feelings towards those who refuse to be vaccinated, Canadians summed them up as*:

- Responsible for overwhelming our health care system – **48%**
- People who are holding us back from having a new normal life – **40%**
- Endangering society – **36%**
- Misguided conspiracy theorists – **36%**
- Good people with legitimate reasons/concerns – **27%**
- Reckless – **26%**
- Super-spreaders of the virus – **17%**
- Heroes for free speech/choice – **12%**

*Respondents could choose up to three that apply.



Majority (66%) of Canadians favor mandatory vaccinations for everyone aged 5+

Yes – 66%: These Canadians are most likely to be found in both British Columbia (75%) and Atlantic Canada (75%), followed by those living in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (71%), Québec (67%), Ontario (62%), and Alberta (57%).

Those Canadians favoring a mandatory vaccination are more likely to be female (68%) than male (64%), and older (aged 55+, 74%/35-54, 63%) compared to those who are younger (aged 18-34, 59%). There is no real differentiation on income, however those who are the most educated (University+, 70%) are more likely to be in favor of mandatory vaccinations for everyone aged 5+.

No – 34%: These Canadians are most likely to reside in Alberta (43%), followed by those living in Ontario (38%), Québec (33%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (29%), and in both British Columbia (25%) and Atlantic Canada (25%).

Those Canadians who do not favour vaccinations are more likely to be male (36%) compared to female (32%) and are younger (aged 35-54, 63%/18-34, 59%) in contrast with those who are older (55+, 26%). There is no real differentiator with respect to income, however those with lesser education (college or high school or less, 36%) are more likely than their more educated counterparts (University+, 30%) to reject this proposition.

To exempt or not to exempt

Eight-in-ten Canadians (82%) are open to some kind of exemption from having to submit to a mandatory vaccination – but it's primarily weighted to just one measure (legitimate/ diagnosed and attested to medical condition, 77%) in comparison to all others tested. The remaining one-in-six (18%) Canadians do not believe there should be any exemptions for submitting to a mandatory vaccination.

So, what exemptions could there be?

Canadians were asked to choose any two of the following exemptions from that would be acceptable for those who do not wish to be vaccinated—of which only one had majority support:

- Legitimate/ diagnosed and attested to medical condition – **77%**
- They had already had COVID – **21%**
- Their religious beliefs – **19%**
- Conscientious objector – **17%**
- Other grounds – **16%**
- None—there should be no exemptions – **18%**

Sympathy for the unvaccinated who get seriously ill or die from COVID

A majority (54%) of Canadians don't have sympathy for an unvaccinated person if they become seriously ill or die as a result of contracting COVID—offset by the remainder that do (46%).

Acceptable measures

Canadians were asked which of the following measures would be acceptable to them in their application to those who remain unvaccinated:

Restrictions from entering public spaces and premises such as restaurants, cinemas, libraries, liquor and cannabis stores, and various retail outlets – 77% acceptable versus 23% unacceptable. Among those who find this measure acceptable (77%), they are most likely to reside in British Columbia (88%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (87%), followed by those living in Québec (78%), Atlantic Canada (75%), and both Ontario (72%) and Alberta (72%).

Have them pay out of pocket for the full medical cost if they are admitted to hospital or ICU if they have contracted COVID – 61% acceptable versus 39% unacceptable. Among those who find this measure acceptable (61%), they are most likely to reside in British Columbia (72%), followed by those living in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (69%), Atlantic Canada (62%), Québec (60%), Alberta (58%), and Ontario (57%).

Pay a monetary healthcare surcharge on their taxes of up to \$150 per month – 61% acceptable versus 39% unacceptable [this result aligns with the same sentiment released one week ago where it was 60%.]. Among those who find this measure acceptable (61%), they are most likely to be found in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (68%), followed by those living in British Columbia (67%), Québec (66%), Atlantic Canada (62%), Alberta (61%), and Ontario (54%).

Refuse to allow them access to any publicly funded hospital/medical services – 37% acceptable versus 63% unacceptable. Among those who find this measure acceptable (37%), they are most likely to be found living in British Columbia (49%), followed by Manitoba/Saskatchewan (42%) and Atlantic Canada (42%), Alberta (37%), Québec (35%), and Ontario (31%).

Refuse the renewal of their driver's license – 33% acceptable versus 67% unacceptable. Among those who find this measure acceptable (33%), they are most likely to reside in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (43%), followed by those living in British Columbia (39%) and Atlantic Canada (38%), Québec (34%), Alberta (31%), and Ontario (29%).



Serve up to five (5) days as part of a jail sentence for endangering others/overwhelming healthcare system – 27% acceptable versus 73% unacceptable. Among those who find this measure acceptable (33%), they are most likely to reside in Atlantic Canada (35%), followed by those living in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (33%), British Columbia (31%), Québec (27%), Alberta (26%), and Ontario (24%).

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Methodology

These are some of the findings released by [Maru Public Opinion](#) from a survey undertaken January 14/15, 2022, by Maru/Blue of 1506 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Maru Voice Canada online panelists. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size has an estimated margin of error (which measures sampling variability) of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region (and in Quebec, language) to match the population according to Census data which ensures the sample is representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals when compared to the data tables are due to rounding.

Panel and data services provider [Maru Blue](#) is deeply rooted in the Maru/HUB technology platform and offers on-demand, high quality, highly scalable online community samples of deeply engaged, known respondents. Respondents could respond in either English or French.

Excerpts from this release of findings should be properly attributed, with interpretation subject to clarification or correction. Maru Public Opinion does not do any work for any political party. Maru Public Opinion polls with supporting detailed tables are found here: [Maru Public Opinion Canada](#). Corporate information can be found here: [Maru Group](#)

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