

UNDERSTANDING COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The IFA launched a national survey that sought to explore older Canadians' current understanding of the COVID-19 landscape as well as their perceptions and beliefs regarding the importance of vaccination. Survey results have been further refined to reflect findings from British Columbian respondents.

Vaccine Intentions and Awareness

80% of survey respondents agreed that at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, they believed that COVID-19 was a serious threat to their health and the health of their loved ones.



Now, only **63%** of respondents reported feeling that COVID-19 is a threat.



58%

intend to be vaccinated this upcoming autumn/winter.



47%

Less than half are aware of current COVID-19 vaccine recommendations in Canada.



2/3

of British Columbians believe that there is a need to receive COVID-19 vaccination regularly (annually or more frequently).



Why Are People Getting Vaccinated

Gaining insight into the motivations of people who receive COVID-19 vaccinations is essential for guiding public health efforts to encourage vaccination among older adults.

Of people who intend to be vaccinated against COVID-19:

98%

intend to be vaccinated to protect themselves from developing COVID-19 and associated risks/symptoms.



65%

intend to be vaccinated due to concern about COVID-19 variants.



73%

intend to be vaccinated to protect their larger community.



Why Are People Not Getting Vaccinated?

Despite the well-described individual and population health benefits of COVID-19 vaccination, public uptake of these vaccines is decreasing.

Of people who did not intend to be vaccinated against COVID-19:

54%

chose not to be vaccinated because they were concerned about the side effects of vaccination.



- Public health authorities indicate that vaccination is safe with rare lasting side effects.

36%

chose not to be vaccinated because they had doubts about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in protecting against disease.



- The vaccine effectiveness of the most recent COVID-19 vaccine has been estimated to be 50 to 60% against symptomatic disease and 60 to 70% against hospitalization among adults.

32%

chose not to be vaccinated because of a lack of belief that the vaccine is necessary to ensure good health.



- COVID-19 vaccines are the best way to prevent contracting COVID-19 and experiencing long-term problems from infection.

For more information, ask a trusted healthcare provider.

Informed Today, Healthier Tomorrow.

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