Background & Methodology

• Toronto Public Health engaged Ipsos to conduct a survey to better understand the public’s views related to COVID-19 vaccination.

• The survey was administered online by Ipsos between July 30 – August 10, 2021.

• A total of 1,203 Toronto residents completed the survey. Quota targets were set to obtain a representative sample of residents by gender, age, region, education, recency of immigration and vaccination status. An oversample of 200 recent immigrants and 200 parents was conducted to ensure representative results.

• The data were weighted to the latest Statistics Canada Census (2016) information to correct for minor deviations on age, gender, region, and education level.

• The credibility interval associated with the total sample size of 1,203 is +/- 3.2%, 19 times out of 20.* Smaller sub-sets of the population will have larger credibility intervals.

• Limitations: The survey was administered online to a panel of volunteers and participation was incentivised. It was only available in English. Therefore, results may not be fully representative of the population of Toronto.

• Wave 1 of this survey was conducted near the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in March/April 2021. This survey builds on the previous survey and includes additional questions for parents and their opinions on vaccination for their children. At the time of this survey all Toronto residents aged 12 years and older were eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

*Ipsos uses a credibility interval calculation to demonstrate confidence in the accuracy of online polling results: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/2017-03/ipsosPA_CredibilityIntervals.pdf
Sample Demographics

Gender

- Woman: 53%
- Man: 47%

Employment Status

- Employed full-time: 42%
- Employed part-time: 9%
- Self-employed: 7%
- A student: 6%
- Unemployed: 10%
- Stay at home parent: 3%
- Retired: 21%
- Other: 2%

Age

- 18-24: 19%
- 25-34: 12%
- 35-44: 20%
- 45-54: 17%
- 55-64: 18%
- 65+: 12%

Household Income

- <$25K: 13%
- $25K to <$40K: 12%
- $40K to <$60K: 5%
- $60K to <$100K: 18%
- $100K to <$150K: 24%
- $150K+: 7%
- Prefer not to answer: 13%

Self-identified Racial Group

- Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian: 2%
- Black: 7%
- East Asian: 13%
- Latin American: 4%
- South Asian or Indo-Caribbean: 10%
- Southeast Asian: 7%
- White: 51%
- More than one race category or mixed race: 2%
- Other: 2%
- Prefer not to answer: 2%

Number of respondents=1,203 (all respondents)

Demographics shown are for the weighted sample.
### Sample Demographics

#### Region
- Etobicoke: 21%
- Metro Toronto: 35%
- North York: 21%
- Scarborough: 23%

#### Household Composition
- 1+ Kids in HH: 21%

#### Education
- HS or less: 39%
- College/Tech School: 26%
- University+: 35%

#### # of Persons in Household
- 1 person: 26%
- 2 to 4: 66%
- 5 or more: 8%

#### Immigration Status
- Born in Canada: 49%
- Immigrant: 51%
  - <5 years in Canada: 21%
  - 5-10 years in Canada: 21%
  - 11+ years in Canada: 58%

Demographics shown are for the weighted sample.

Number of respondents=1,203 (all respondents)
Progress continues to be made in the COVID-19 vaccination effort. At the time of the survey, **eight in ten (81%) Toronto residents have received either one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine** and 5% of have not received a COVID-19 vaccine but want to.

**About one in six (14%) residents can be considered as vaccine hesitant**, which includes 6% who said they will definitely not receive a COVID-19 vaccine and 8% who said they are unsure if they will in the future. This represents a **7% decrease** in hesitancy since residents were last surveyed in March 2021.

**Among those who have only received one dose of the vaccine so far, 90% said they are waiting for their second dose**, 9% said they are unsure if they will get a second dose, and only 1% said they will definitely not be getting a second dose, generally citing adverse effects from the first dose as the reason.
Among those who said they will probably not or definitely not get the COVID-19 vaccine, the top reasons remained the same as in March 2021, and were due to worry about potential side-effects (47%) and potential long-term effects (47%). However, worry about side effects has decreased since March (-10%).

Four in ten (37%) unvaccinated residents said they would be more likely to get vaccinated if it was mandatory for travel and 34% said they would be more likely to get vaccinated if it was mandatory to go to work.

The majority of residents agreed that it should be mandatory for people who want to travel outside of Canada to be fully vaccinated (81%), and mandatory for people to attend large events/gatherings to be fully vaccinated (80%).
• Seven in ten (69%) parents of children over 12 said their child has received one or two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and 8% said their child has not yet been vaccinated, but they want them to. This leaves one in five (19%) parents who said their child has not received a COVID-19 vaccine, and they are unsure if they want them to receive it in the future.

• Among the parents who have not gotten their child a COVID-19 vaccine, a majority said that the reason is because they are worried about potential side-effects (56%), and potential long-term effects for children (48%).
• About two-thirds (64%) of parents with children under the age of 12 would vaccinate their children, should a vaccine become available. 26% of parents said they are unlikely to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child under 12 years of age, while one in ten (10%) parents were unsure.

• Two-thirds of parents agreed that COVID-19 vaccines should be mandatory for children who want to return to in-person leaning in schools (66%), and mandatory for children to participate in extra curricular activities (64%).
COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake
81% of Toronto residents have received one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. The majority (73%) have received two doses, while 8% have received one dose. 5% of residents have not received a COVID-19 vaccine but want to.

- Among those who received only one dose, 90% said they are waiting for their second dose, 9% were unsure if they will get a second dose and only 1% definitely would not get a second dose.

- 14% residents are vaccine hesitant, including 8% who are unsure if they will get vaccinated and 6% who said they will definitely not get vaccinated.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Status**

- I have received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- I have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine
- I have not received a COVID-19 vaccine, but I want to
- I have not received a COVID-19 vaccine and I am unsure if I will in the future
- I have not received a COVID-19 vaccine and I definitely will not in the future

**Reasons Why Not Getting Second Dose**

- Strong side effects.
- I don’t want to take it.
- Allergic reaction to the first dose.
- Causes headaches.
- Want to confirm if it is 100% effective.
- Had COVID prior to the vaccine.

Number of respondents=1,203 (All respondents)

Question: When thinking about the COVID-19 vaccine, which of the following most applies to you?

Number of respondents=13 (Respondents who are unsure/will not get a second dose of the vaccine)

Question: Why would you say that you are unsure/definitely will not get a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine?
Reasons For Not Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

- Among those who have not yet been vaccinated for COVID-19, the top three reasons remained the same as in March 2021.
- Concerns about potential side-effects of the vaccine have decreased since March 2021 (-10%).

Of residents who have a family member over 65 years of age living in Canada, 15% had a family member who was not yet vaccinated with at least one dose.

Reasons why family 65+ haven't received the vaccine

- Fear of the unknown; not sure what the vaccine would do to her.
- They do not trust the vaccine.
- The benefits of receiving the vaccine are nullified if one does not continue to wear a mask or face covering while indoors with other people.
- Doctor has said because of illness would not be able to build immunity.
- He wishes to receive a particular vaccine type and it is apparently not available in his area.

Number of respondents=99 (Respondents with family members over 65 without at least one does of vaccine)

Question: Why do you think these family members have not received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine?

Number of respondents=143 (Respondents who do not want to get vaccinated)

Question: What reasons do you have for not getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

Please read through each item and select the ones that apply to you.

- Worried about any potential side-effects of the vaccine: 47%
- Worried about any potential negative long-term effects of the vaccine: 47%
- Don’t trust how quickly the COVID-19 vaccine was developed and tested: 47%
- Don’t think the COVID-19 vaccine will provide immunity for a lifetime: 28%
- Don’t think the COVID-19 vaccine will work against new variants or mutations: 28%
- Don’t know enough about the COVID-19 vaccine: 20%
- In general, I don’t believe in vaccines: 14%
- Concerned about getting COVID-19 from the vaccine: 11%
- Don’t know: 14%

Mentions with <10% not shown in chart
Motivations for Non-Vaccinated Residents

When asked what would make Toronto residents who are not vaccinated more or less likely to get a vaccine, about four in ten (37%) said they would be more likely to get a vaccine if it was mandatory for travel. Other messages that would have a positive impact on uptake included if it was mandatory to go to work or if it has been tested by a large number of people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Message</th>
<th>More Likely to Get the Vaccine (%)</th>
<th>Less Likely to Get the Vaccine (%)</th>
<th>Would Not Impact My Likelihood to Get the Vaccine (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If it was mandatory for me to be able to travel</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If it was mandatory for me to go to work</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has been tested among a large number of people</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could get paid $100 to take a COVID-19 vaccine</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was approved by Health Canada</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has been tested on people like me</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was made available to me close to my home</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If it was mandatory for me to attend a large event</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could get a paid day off work</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a healthcare professional contacted me directly</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If people I know personally got a vaccine</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I saw people like me being vaccinated</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents=199 (Respondents who have not had one dose)

Question: Indicate whether the following would make you more likely, less likely, or have no impact on your likelihood to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
Potential Barriers for Non-Vaccinated Residents

- One in five (22%) non-vaccinated Toronto residents disagreed with the statement that they know how to access the vaccine booking system. Similarly, one in five (22%) agreed that they are not comfortable booking a vaccine appointment online.
- One-third (33%) of non-vaccinated residents agreed that they will not get paid time off from their employer to get a vaccine. Those aged 18-24 were more likely to agree with this than the other age groups. Around one quarter (28%) also agreed that they are unable to take time off from work to get vaccinated due to their schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree (%)</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree (%)</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree (%)</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I know where to go to get a vaccine</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to access the vaccine booking system</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a preference for the type of vaccine that I would like to receive</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am confused with contradictory information about the vaccines</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I won’t get (paid) time off from work to get a vaccine</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The vaccine I want is unavailable right now</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can’t take time off from work to get a vaccine due to my schedule</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am confused about when my age group can sign-up to get a vaccine</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have caregiving responsibilities so I don’t have time to get vaccinated</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not comfortable booking a vaccine appointment online</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am physically unable to travel to a vaccination site</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents=315 (Respondents who are not fully vaccinated)

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about getting a COVID-19 vaccine?
COVID-19 Vaccine for Children
COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 12 Years Old or Older

- Among parents who have children 12 years of age or older, seven in ten (69%) said their child has received one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. One in five (19%) said their child has not received a COVID-19 vaccine, and they are unsure if they want them to in the future.

- Among the parents who have vaccinated their child, a majority say that the reason was because they don’t want their child to get sick with COVID-19 (62%), they want life to get back to normal (57%) and/or want their child to return to school safely (57%).

### Number of respondents=106 (Parents of child(ren) 12 years of age or older)

Question: When thinking about the COVID-19 vaccine and your children between the ages of 12 and 17 and the COVID-19 vaccine, which of the following statements apply most?

- My child has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine
- My child has received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- My child has not received a COVID-19 vaccine, but I want them to
- My child has not received a COVID-19 vaccine and I am unsure if I want them to in the future
- My child has not received a COVID-19 vaccine and will not be getting it in the future
Among the parents who have not gotten their child a COVID-19 vaccine, a majority said that the reason is because they are worried about any potential side-effects on their child (56%). Similarly, almost half were worried about potential negative long-term effects for children (48%).

Other reasons include not trusting how quickly the COVID-19 vaccine was developed for children (40%), that they don’t know enough about the vaccine (28%), and they don’t think their child needs a vaccine (25%).

Number of respondents=80 (Parents who have not gotten their child a vaccine)
Question: What reasons do you have for not getting your child a COVID-19 vaccine? From the list below, please select all that apply.
Among parents with children 11 years of age or younger, a majority (64%) said they are likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their children once is approved, while 26% of parents said they are unlikely and 10% were unsure.

Number of respondents=176 (Parents of child[ren] 11 years of age or younger)

Question: Currently, COVID-19 vaccines are not approved for children under the age of 12. If this was to change and children under the age of 12 were approved for the vaccine, how likely would you be to get a COVID-19 vaccine for your child[ren]?
COVID-19 Vaccine Opinions
Opinions About Mandatory Vaccination

- A prominent majority of residents agreed that it should be mandatory for people who want to travel outside of Canada to be fully vaccinated (81%), and mandatory for people to attend large events/gatherings to be fully vaccinated (80%).

- Among parents, a majority agreed that COVID-19 vaccination should be mandatory for children who want to return to in-person leaning in schools (66%), and that vaccination should be mandatory for children to participate in extra curricular activities (64%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>STRONGLY AGREE</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT AGREE</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</th>
<th>STRONGLY DISAGREE</th>
<th>NOT SURE</th>
<th>TOTAL AGREE (STRONGLY + SOMEWHAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It should be mandatory for people who want to travel outside Canada to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19</td>
<td><strong>64%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It should be mandatory for people to attend large events or gatherings to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19</td>
<td><strong>61%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 vaccines should be mandatory for children who want to return to in-person learning in school+</td>
<td><strong>46%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 vaccines should be mandatory for children to participate in extra curricular activities like sports+</td>
<td><strong>43%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Asked of parents only (n=267)
Number of respondents=1,203 (All respondents)
Question: Indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
### Attitudes Following Vaccination

- Four in ten (41%) residents agreed that once they are fully vaccinated, they will resume activities like before COVID-19 without restrictions, with a quarter (23%) who strongly agreed to this. Notably, four in ten (38%) agreed that they will not be able to spread COVID-19 when they are fully vaccinated or get sick from COVID-19 (36%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>STRONGLY AGREE</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT AGREE</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</th>
<th>STRONGLY DISAGREE</th>
<th>NOT SURE</th>
<th>TOTAL AGREE (STRONGLY + SOMEWHAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resume activities like before the COVID-19 pandemic, without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not be able to spread COVID-19</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not get sick from COVID-19</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents=315 (Respondents not fully vaccinated)

Question: Indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
Thank you

Toronto Public Health
Office of the Medical Officer of Health
City of Toronto

277 Victoria Street
5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

toronto.ca/health

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health