

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Almost Two-Thirds of Canadians Concerned about COVID-19

More than half say public health authorities are doing a good job

Toronto, March 6th - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1112 Canadian voters, about two-thirds (BTM2: 62%) say they are concerned about COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, with a quarter (25%) saying they are very concerned.

About 4 in 10 (TOP2: 38%) say they are not concerned with the virus, with about one-sixth (16%) saying they aren't concerned at all.

Those under 25 (70%) are the most likely to express concerns about COVID-19, slightly above those 65+ (66%). Ontarians (66%) and residents of the Atlantic provinces (68%) are also likely to express concern.

Those aged 25-34 (51%) are the least likely to express concern, well above the other age categories. Residents of the prairies (MB/SK)(43%) and BC (44%) are also less likely to express concern than residents of other provinces.

Public Health System gets a passing grade

More than half (TOP2: 58%) say they rate Canada's public-health system's response to the virus so far as good, with a quarter (24%) saying it's very good.

Only a quarter (BTM2: 28%) rate the response as not good, with about one-sixth (15%) saying it's not been good at all.

Respondents aged 65+ (70%) are most likely to say that the public-health response has been good, as are residents of Atlantic Canada (68%).

Those under 25 (32%), 35-44 (30%), and 45-54 (29%), are most likely to say the response has not been good, as well as those living in the prairies (MB/SK)(39%) (which is actually tied for the number of prairies' residents who feel the response has been good (40%)).

One-sixth think they've heard that people of Asian-ancestry are more susceptible to COVID-19

One-sixth (14%) feel that they've heard those with Asian-ancestry are more susceptible to COVID-19...which is false.

A strong majority (70%) know that people of Asian-ancestry are no more likely, or less likely, than anyone else to be susceptible to COVID-19.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

"The majority of Canadians are concerned with COVID-19, and most haven't been caught up in any of the misinformation about the virus," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "One note of concern, however, are the responses of young people; not only are they the age group most likely to say they're worried about the virus, and think public-health organizations aren't doing a good job, they're also most likely to draw a few incorrect conclusions about the virus, as well."



**FORUM
RESEARCH**

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
forumresearch.com

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lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

A few (6%) said people of Asian-ancestry are less susceptible to COVID-19, which is also false. About 1 in 10 (10%) said they do not know.

Those under 25 (27%) are most likely by far to say they've heard people of Asian-ancestry are more susceptible to COVID-19. In fact, they're more than twice as likely to say it than any other age category.

Most know a facemask isn't an effective way to avoid the virus

Two-thirds (65%) say, correctly, that a facemask isn't an effective way to avoid the virus. One-fifth (18%) say, incorrectly, that a facemask is an effective way to avoid the virus, while a similar proportion (17%) say they don't know.

Those most likely to incorrectly say a facemask is an effective way to avoid the virus include those under the age of 25 (31%) or living in Québec (22%).

Eight in 10 know frequent hand-washing is an effective way to avoid COVID-19

Eight in 10 (83%) correctly say that frequent hand-washing is an effective way to avoid COVID-19, while 1 in 10 (8%) say it isn't, and a similar proportion say they don't know (9%).

Those most likely to say, incorrectly, that frequent hand-washing is not an effective way to avoid COVID-19 include ages 25-34 (9%), 35-44 (8%), and 65+ (11%).

Most not stockpiling supplies because of the virus...but...

Eight in 10 (79%) say they aren't stockpiling supplies such as food, water, or toilet paper, but one-fifth (17%) say they are. A few (4%) say they don't know.

Those aged 25 and younger (18%) and those aged 65+ (21%) are most likely to say they're stockpiling supplies, as are residents of BC (25%).

Only a third identify 20 seconds as recommended hand-washing time

A third (32%) were able to identify 20 seconds as the optimal hand-washing time, which is the generally recommended duration.

Those under 25 (35%), 55-64 (37%), and 65+ (35%) were most likely to correctly identify 20 seconds, as were residents of Ontario (39%), the prairies (MB/SK)(37%) or BC (38%).



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Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1112 randomly selected Canadian Voters. The poll was conducted March 5th, 2020.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20, measured as the average deviation across all response categories. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses:

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	631	112	91	133	119	176	303	315
NET: TOP3	66	57	60	68	78	86	67	64
NET: BTM3	34	43	39	32	21	14	32	36
Very satisfied	9	9	6	6	13	20	11	8
Satisfied	28	17	29	35	32	45	25	31
Somewhat satisfied	28	31	26	28	32	20	31	25
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	11	16	14	11	8	13	12
Dissatisfied	11	15	15	9	5	3	9	13
Very dissatisfied	11	18	9	8	5	3	9	12
Don't know	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied.

Due to rounding some numbers may not add up to 100



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COVID Concerns

Overall, how concerned are you about COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
<u>NET: Top 2</u>	62	62	63	61	70	49	64	65	61	66
<u>NET: Bot 2</u>	38	38	37	39	30	51	36	35	39	34
Very concerned	25	23	25	41	29	19	26	26	24	25
Somewhat concerned	38	39	38	20	41	30	38	38	37	41
Not very concerned	21	22	21	18	19	28	17	23	21	19
Not concerned at all	16	17	15	20	11	23	18	12	17	15



Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
<u>NET: Top 2</u>	62	68	61	66	57	60	56
<u>NET: Bot 2</u>	38	32	39	34	43	40	44
Very concerned	25	32	21	27	24	26	22
Somewhat concerned	38	36	40	39	32	34	34
Not very concerned	21	20	20	21	31	20	23
Not concerned at all	16	12	19	13	12	20	22

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Virus susceptibility

Based on what you have seen, or heard, are people of Asian ancestry more susceptible, less susceptible, or neither more nor less susceptible to COVID-19 than people of non-Asian ancestry?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
Less susceptible	6	6	6	7	2	7	5	8	3	9
Neither more nor less susceptible	70	72	69	57	64	70	72	69	73	70
More susceptible	14	12	15	25	27	12	12	13	12	12
Don't know	10	10	11	11	7	11	11	10	12	10

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
Less susceptible	6	7	6	5	5	9	5
Neither more nor less susceptible	70	66	75	68	71	71	67
More susceptible	14	16	14	15	11	10	15
Don't know	10	11	5	12	13	10	13



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Public-health response

Generally, how would you rate the response of Canada's public-health systems to the threat of the virus so far?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
<u>NET: Top 2</u>	58	58	59	34	48	52	55	60	58	70
<u>NET: Bot 2</u>	28	29	24	55	32	28	30	29	26	23
Very good	24	27	23	9	18	18	22	23	29	34
Somewhat good	33	32	35	25	30	34	32	37	29	36
Not very good	13	13	14	7	19	12	13	15	11	10
Not good at all	15	16	10	48	13	16	17	14	15	13
Don't know	15	13	17	11	20	21	15	11	16	8



Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
<u>NET: Top 2</u>	58	68	63	60	40	42	59
<u>NET: Bot 2</u>	28	17	25	28	39	34	26
Very good	24	28	19	29	21	14	28
Somewhat good	33	41	44	30	20	28	30
Not very good	13	6	15	12	21	15	12
Not good at all	15	11	10	16	18	18	15
Don't know	15	15	12	12	21	25	15

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Facemasks

Is wearing a facemask an effective way to avoid COVID-19?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
No	65	66	63	80	54	56	65	74	69	67
Yes	18	17	19	14	31	24	17	10	16	15
Don't know	17	17	18	7	15	20	18	17	15	18

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
No	65	67	55	68	68	67	70
Yes	18	18	22	17	13	17	14
Don't know	17	15	23	15	19	16	15



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Hand-washing

Is frequent hand-washing an effective way to avoid COVID-19?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
No	8	7	7	25	5	9	8	7	6	11
Yes	83	84	85	59	79	86	84	84	88	79
Don't know	9	9	8	16	16	5	8	8	6	10

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
No	8	7	7	9	10	6	5
Yes	83	90	77	85	83	81	89
Don't know	9	4	16	5	7	13	6



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Supplies

Because of the virus, are you stockpiling supplies, such as food, water, or toilet paper?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
No	79	80	79	66	73	79	79	81	84	74
Yes	17	17	16	25	18	17	17	15	13	21
Don't know	4	3	5	9	10	4	4	3	3	5

Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
No	79	80	87	77	76	78	71
Yes	17	16	10	18	21	17	25
Don't know	4	3	4	6	4	5	3



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Length of hand-washing

As far as you know, what is the optimal length for washing your hands?

Age/Gender

%	Total	Male	Female	Non-binary	Under 25 years	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65+
Sample	1112	600	468	44	50	120	178	181	267	316
Not at all	2	2	0	23	3	3	0	0	1	5
5 seconds	4	4	4	0	4	1	4	3	4	6
10 seconds	13	12	13	9	7	14	13	11	14	16
15 seconds	13	16	11	5	14	11	11	14	14	15
20 seconds	32	31	34	27	35	28	30	31	37	35
30 seconds	22	21	23	14	20	28	31	23	16	11
45 seconds	11	10	11	18	14	12	8	12	11	9
Don't know	3	4	3	5	2	2	3	5	4	5



Region

%	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Sample	1112	103	252	395	94	122	146
Not at all	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
5 seconds	4	4	6	4	2	1	1
10 seconds	13	20	19	9	7	11	12
15 seconds	13	13	14	14	9	15	11
20 seconds	32	29	19	39	37	30	38
30 seconds	22	19	23	20	17	23	27
45 seconds	11	12	13	8	23	13	7
Don't know	3	1	4	3	3	5	4

For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com

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