

# NEWS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Majority of Ontarians support return to masks**

#### **Seven out of ten willing to comply with an Ontario mask mandate**

Toronto, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1007 Ontario residents, 53% agree that Ontario should bring back its mask mandate and 72% agree that they would follow a renewed provincial mask mandate.

While 19% say they will never wear masks again and 4% are unsure, 77% already wear masks or would be willing to wear them again. A worse Covid situation would motivate 25% to wear masks again, while 24% said they would do so in response to a mask mandate. Willingness to follow a mask mandate is highest in the city of Toronto (79%) and lowest in Northern Ontario (60%).

“We are seeing significant public support for a mask mandate,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. “It’s likely that Ontarians are concerned about increasing Covid risks in coming months.”

Support for a mask mandate differs strongly by political preference. Among those who would vote Progressive Conservative if a provincial election were held today, 56% would follow a renewed mask mandate in Ontario, compared to 87% of those who would vote Liberal or NDP, 72% of those who would vote Green, 32% of those who would vote for other parties and 75% of undecideds.

At the federal level, 47% of those who would vote Conservative agreed that they would follow a mask mandate in Ontario, compared to 87-88% of those who would vote Liberal or NDP, 68% of those who would vote Green, 49% of those who would vote for other parties, and 85% of undecideds.

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1007 randomly selected Ontario residents over the age of 18. The poll was conducted on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample and regional results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample and regional results are available at [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp).

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather captures opinion at one point in time. The poll was conducted for the Toronto Star by Forum Research Inc. With offices across Canada and around

**TORONTO**  
**Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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<https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/>

The key questions covered in the recent poll concerned:

### **Current Mask Use**

*How often do you wear a mask as a safety measure against COVID-19?*

### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Non-binary or Other
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>28</b>
Never	26	34	36	36	27	26	6	31	20	32
Hardly ever	17	19	15	21	20	15	14	20	14	11
Sometimes	22	9	19	20	24	25	25	20	24	14
Often	20	27	14	13	15	22	30	18	23	11
Always	16	11	16	10	14	12	25	10	20	32

### **Voting Intention – Provincial**

*[Decided/Leaning]*

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>99</b>
Never	26	36	13	10	32	66	25
Hardly ever	17	20	17	22	16	5	8
Sometimes	22	21	22	26	17	11	26
Often	20	15	25	20	20	12	28
Always	16	8	23	22	16	6	13

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## Voting Intention – Federal

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided
Sample	1007	324	344	151	53	52	83
Never	26	46	10	12	29	52	19
Hardly ever	17	18	16	22	17	7	13
Sometimes	22	18	23	26	23	9	28
Often	20	11	27	20	21	21	26
Always	16	7	24	19	10	10	14

## Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1007	67	107	113	89	111	239	51
Never	26	33	18	26	29	22	32	47
Hardly ever	17	10	13	9	21	15	26	13
Sometimes	22	11	27	25	18	26	18	9
Often	20	26	16	28	21	21	12	26
Always	16	20	26	12	11	16	12	5

## Region

%	Total	Eastern ON	Toronto (City)	Toronto (GTA)	Southwestern ON	Northern ON
Sample	1007	171	206	263	229	138
Never	26	26	20	24	28	36
Hardly ever	17	15	14	20	18	15
Sometimes	22	25	21	23	23	13
Often	20	20	23	19	17	21
Always	16	13	22	13	14	15

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## ***Bringing back a mask mandate***

*Do you agree or disagree that the province of Ontario should bring back its mask mandate?*

Note: TOP2 collects “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree” into one category, and BTM2 collects “strongly disagree” and “somewhat disagree.”

### ***Age/Gender***

%	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Non-binary or Other
Sample	1007	53	105	173	172	220	284	479	449	28
TOP2	53	37	48	46	51	53	71	46	61	43
BTM2	47	63	52	54	49	47	29	54	39	57
Strongly agree	26	14	21	24	28	26	35	20	33	32
Somewhat agree	27	22	27	22	23	27	35	27	28	11
Somewhat disagree	16	19	15	14	15	16	16	15	17	14
Strongly disagree	31	44	37	40	34	31	13	38	22	43

### ***Voting Intention – Provincial***

*[Decided/Leaning]*

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided
Sample	1007	295	266	196	71	80	99
TOP2	53	35	67	69	54	26	54
BTM2	47	65	33	31	46	74	46
Strongly agree	26	15	38	33	25	19	22
Somewhat agree	27	21	29	37	29	7	32
Somewhat disagree	16	17	18	14	11	7	21
Strongly disagree	31	48	15	17	35	67	25

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## Voting Intention – Federal

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided
Sample	1007	324	344	151	53	52	83
TOP2	53	28	73	66	43	32	63
BTM2	47	72	27	34	57	68	37
Strongly agree	26	13	39	34	14	14	28
Somewhat agree	27	15	34	32	29	19	35
Somewhat disagree	16	14	14	18	18	15	20
Strongly disagree	31	57	13	15	39	53	17

## Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20- \$40K	\$40- \$60K	\$60- \$80K	\$80- \$100K	\$100- \$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1007	67	107	113	89	111	239	51
TOP2	53	58	59	57	48	58	45	44
BTM2	47	42	41	43	52	42	55	56
Strongly agree	26	37	33	24	23	23	24	21
Somewhat agree	27	21	26	33	25	35	21	23
Somewhat disagree	16	19	16	17	14	10	18	19
Strongly disagree	31	23	25	26	38	32	37	37

## Region

%	Total	Eastern ON	Toronto (City)	Toronto (GTA)	Southwestern ON	Northern ON
Sample	1007	171	206	263	229	138
TOP2	53	56	60	52	50	46
BTM2	47	44	40	48	50	54
Strongly agree	26	31	32	25	20	24
Somewhat agree	27	25	28	27	30	22
Somewhat disagree	16	15	17	17	15	12
Strongly disagree	31	29	23	31	35	42

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## Compliance with a mask mandate

Would you follow a mask mandate if Ontario brought one back?

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Non-binary or Other
Sample	1007	53	105	173	172	220	284	479	449	28
Yes	72	66	65	62	67	74	88	66	80	50
No	28	34	35	38	33	26	12	34	20	50

## Voting Intention – Provincial

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided
Sample	1007	295	266	196	71	80	99
Yes	72	56	87	87	72	32	75
No	28	44	13	13	28	68	25

## Voting Intention – Federal

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided
Sample	1007	324	344	151	53	52	83
Yes	72	47	88	87	68	49	85
No	28	53	12	13	32	51	15

## Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1007	67	107	113	89	111	239	51
Yes	72	76	76	75	59	75	68	63
No	28	24	24	25	41	25	32	37

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## Region

%	Total	Eastern ON	Toronto (City)	Toronto (GTA)	Southwestern ON	Northern ON
Sample	1007	171	206	263	229	138
Yes	72	72	79	74	67	60
No	28	28	21	26	33	40

## Motivations for mask wearing

What would it take for you to wear a mask again?

## Age/Gender

%	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Non-binary or Other
Sample	1007	53	105	173	172	220	284	479	449	28
A worse Covid situation	25	34	20	29	24	24	25	25	27	18
A mask mandate	24	18	24	29	24	21	26	27	23	7
I already wear a mask	28	26	28	16	23	31	38	21	35	29
I'll never wear a mask again	19	22	22	24	27	18	6	24	11	39
Not sure	4	0	6	3	3	6	5	3	5	7

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## ***Voting Intention – Provincial***

*[Decided/Leaning]*

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Progressive Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>NDP</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>A worse Covid situation</b>	25	22	28	29	28	4	31
<b>A mask mandate</b>	24	29	26	25	26	10	17
<b>I already wear a mask</b>	28	15	39	34	27	17	29
<b>I'll never wear a mask again</b>	19	28	6	7	11	64	19
<b>Not sure</b>	4	5	1	5	8	4	4

## ***Voting Intention – Federal***

*[Decided/Leaning]*

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>NDP</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>A worse Covid situation</b>	25	18	29	31	22	21	29
<b>A mask mandate</b>	24	26	24	22	34	15	23
<b>I already wear a mask</b>	28	12	41	34	22	18	33
<b>I'll never wear a mask again</b>	19	39	5	6	14	38	10
<b>Not sure</b>	4	5	1	6	7	8	5

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## Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>51</b>
A worse Covid situation	25	20	18	23	26	25	29	17
A mask mandate	24	23	27	28	23	27	26	33
I already wear a mask	28	37	38	30	20	27	20	26
I'll never wear a mask again	19	15	12	18	28	16	21	24
Not sure	4	6	5	1	3	4	4	0

## Region

%	Total	Eastern ON	Toronto (City)	Toronto (GTA)	Southwestern ON	Northern ON
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>138</b>
A worse Covid situation	25	25	25	26	25	23
A mask mandate	24	30	23	26	22	17
I already wear a mask	28	25	36	28	23	23
I'll never wear a mask again	19	15	13	16	23	31
Not sure	4	5	2	4	6	6

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